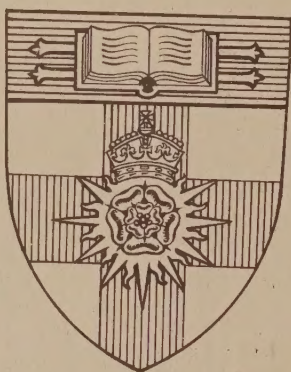


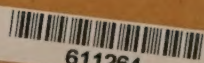
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ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

SIXTY-FIVE VOLUMES.

—(8.)—

COLONIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS—*continued.*

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL)—*continued.*

LEEWARD ISLANDS TO WEI-HAI-WEI.

Session

29 January 1908 — 21 December 1908.

VOL. LXIX.

1908.

ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS

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FOR THE YEAR 1817

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COLONIES AND BRITISH POSSESSIONS—*continued.*

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No. 539.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1906-7.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 518.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1907.



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No. 539.

LEEWARD ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 518.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Antigua,

20th August, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward an interesting and well-prepared report by Mr. E. St. John Branch, the Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book of the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1906-7.

I have &c.,

BICKHAM SWEET-ESCOTT,

Governor.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1906-7.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The aggregate revenue of the various Presidencies comprising the Colony of the Leeward Islands during the financial year 1906-7 (exclusive of grants in aid from the Imperial Government amounting to £8,159 9s. 4d.) was £138,154 14s. 5½d., showing a net increase of £1,099 12s. 4d. over that for the previous financial year.

The following table shows the amount of revenue collected in each Presidency during the last five years, as also the increase or decrease in 1906-7, as compared with 1905-6.

Presidency.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	Increase 1906-7 over 1905-6.	Decrease 1906-7 under 1905-6.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Antigua ...	46,395	43,812	44,295	48,798	44,175	—	4,623
St. Kitts-Nevis	42,773	39,127	43,905	47,145	49,613	2,468	—
Dominica ...	31,045	31,443	30,982	31,200	33,209	2,009	—
Montserrat ...	6,294	7,599	7,237	7,433	8,732	1,299	—
Virgin Islands	1,848	2,167	2,503	2,478	2,425	—	53
Total ...	128,355	124,148	128,922	137,054	138,154	5,776	4,676

Net increase of revenue in 1906-7 as compared with 1905-6, £1,100.

A comparative statement of the revenue collected in each Presidency of the Colony in the years 1905-6 and 1906-7, is given in Table I. of the Appendix.

Under the head of "Customs" Antigua shows an increase of £2,509 19s. 11d.; St. Kitts-Nevis, £1,919 3s. 9d.; Dominica, £673 14s. 1d.; Montserrat, £1,307 11s. 0d.; and the Virgin Islands, £13 5s. 0d.

Under the head "Port and Harbour Dues" Antigua shows an increase of £182 15s. 6d., St. Kitts of £285 12s. 11d., and

Dominica of £92 5s. 11*d.*, while Montserrat and the Virgin Islands show decreases of £111 3s. 3*d.* and £15 3s. 9*d.* respectively.

Under the head "Excise" Antigua and St. Kitts show decreases of £679 8s. 1*d.* and £363 7s. 10*d.* respectively, and Dominica and Montserrat increases of £756 13s. 0*d.* and £22 2s. 2*d.*

Under the head "Taxes" increases appear in St. Kitts-Nevis of £747 5s. 10*d.*, in Dominica of £43 10s. 3*d.*, and in Montserrat of £79 2s. 0*d.*, while Antigua and the Virgin Islands show decreases respectively of £129 8s. 2*d.* and £22 12s. 4*d.*

Under the head "Licences" Antigua shows an increase of £22 5s. 11*d.*, Dominica of £222 17s. 2*d.*, and Montserrat of £87 1s. 4*d.*; and St. Kitts and the Virgin Islands exhibit decreases of £43 15s. 4*d.* and £19 7s. 3*d.* respectively.

Under the head "Rates" increases appear in St. Kitts of £501 5s. 6*d.* and in Montserrat of £5 11s. 6*d.*

Under the head "Fees of Court" decreases appear in Antigua of £5,886 18s. 7*d.*, and in St. Kitts of £759 18s. 2*d.*, while Dominica, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands show respectively increases of £159 18s. 10*d.*, £37 19s. 3*d.*, and £175 11s. 10*d.*

The following is a return showing the number of licences issued in the Leeward Islands in 1906-7 for the sale of intoxicating liquors, and the revenue derived therefrom:—

Presidency.	No. of Licences issued for sale of intoxicating liquors.	Revenue derived therefrom.
Antigua	13	£ 553
St. Kitts-Nevis	50	2,015
Dominica	93	966
Montserrat	27	120
Virgin Islands	18	31
Total	201	3,685

Expenditure.

The total expenditure for the year 1906-7 was £129,998, as against £142,215 for the year 1905-6, showing a decrease of £12,217.

The expenditure of each Presidency for each of the last five years, as also the increase or decrease in 1906-7 as compared with 1905-6 is shown in Table II. of the Appendix.

The increases in the expenditure amount to £4,862. The largest increases appear under the following heads:—

Number.	Head.	Amount.
		£
3	Legislature	149
6	Treasury and Customs	204
9	Registrar and Provost Marshal	2,129
14	Education	66
16	Board of Health	1,063
17	Registration and Vaccination	63
18	Public Market	4
19	Public Library	105
22	Miscellaneous	321
23	Telephones	212
23(a)	Electric Lighting	137
24	Public Works Department	16
25	Public Works Recurrent	82
28	Local Department of Agriculture	311
	Total	4,862

Decreases in expenditure amount to £17,097, and occur principally under the following heads:—

Number.	Head.	Amount.
		£
1	Public Debt... ..	143
2	Pensions	80
4	Island Secretary (Commissioner)... ..	151
5	Federal Contribution	384
7	Audit... ..	2
8	Port and Marine	117
9	Magistrates	2,074
10	Police	191
11	Prisons	925
12	Medical	314
13	Hospitals	589
15	Ecclesiastical	221
21	Military	420
23	Post Office	359
23	Telegraphs	112
26	Public Works Extraordinary	7,941
29	Repayment of Loans	3,121
30	Forestry Department	35
	Total	17,079

Briefly reviewed, expenditure in Antigua (including Barbuda), shows a decrease of £9,176, in St. Kitts-Nevis an increase of £2,041, in Dominica a decrease of £4,072, in Montserrat a decrease of £529, and in the Virgin Islands a decrease of £480, compared with that of 1905-6.

(B.) CHANGES IN TAXATION.

There were no important changes in taxation during the year.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

A statement of assets and liabilities to 31st March, 1907, for the General Government and for each Presidency is given in Table III. of the Appendix.

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt of the Colony, secured on the general revenues of the Presidencies, amounts to £274,900.

The debt of the Colony has been reduced by the following amount during the year:—

St. John's Savings Bank Loan, Antigua, £200.

The following table gives a list of the loans raised at different times and the amount standing to the credit of their respective sinking funds:—

Loans.	Amount.	Amount to Credit of Sinking Fund.
	£	£
Antigua—		
In Aid of Revenue, borrowed from St. John's Savings Bank.	8,940*	—
Wallings Reservoir... ..	14,000	2,876
Additional Waterworks	12,200	8,177
Public Works and Harbour Im- provements.	100,000	21,665
St. Kitts-Nevis—		
Basseterre Protection	3,900	1,099
Waterworks (Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay).	8,000	2,320
Waterworks, Nevis	8,850	4,722
Public Works	23,000	
Public Works, 1891... ..	23,500	
Improvement of Basseterre ...	9,000†	—
Dominica—		
Public Works and Revenue in Aid Roads and Bridges, 1880 and 1890	5,000	2,015
Roads and Bridges, 1880 and 1890	30,000	6,234
Roads and Bridges, 1895	30,000	4,113
Montserrat—		
Waterworks, 1883	1,100	343
Waterworks, 1893	10,000	1,531
	287,490	59,459
Less amount repaid	12,590	
	274,900	

* Amount repaid £4,440.

† Amount repaid £8,150.

(E.) CURRENCY.

There is nothing calling for remark under this head.

(F.) MUNICIPALITIES.

The revenue of the St. John's City Board, established under Antigua Ordinance No. 5 of 1898, amounted to £4,390, as compared with £4,656 for last year.

The expenditure for the same period amounted to £4,364, leaving a net surplus of £26 on the year's working. The Board receives a grant of £2,100 per annum. From this should be deducted the sum of £848 paid as interest and sinking fund on the Water Works Loans of 1885 and 1890.

Town Boards also exist in Basseterre (St. Kitts), and Roseau (Dominica).

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The total value of imports for the Colony of the Leeward Islands for the year 1906, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, amounted to £407,251, as against £403,481 in 1905, being an increase of £3,770.

The following table shows the total value of imports for the last five years, distinguishing the countries from which the imports came, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1906 as compared with the previous year:—

Country whence Imported.	1902	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	In-crease 1906 over 1905.	De-crease 1906 under 1905.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	165,958	168,700	175,546	177,119	178,587	1,468	—
British Colonies	56,941	51,718	56,541	62,019	68,227	6,208	—
United States of America ..	143,521	140,240	144,026	151,968	147,020	—	4,948
Other Foreign Countries ..	8,107	7,044	12,109	12,375	13,417	1,042	—
Total	374,527	377,700	388,222	403,481	407,251	3,770	—

Net increase in value of imports in 1906 as compared with 1905, £3,770.

The internal trade between the Presidencies shows a total value of goods exchanged or imported of £16,501, as against £17,325 for the year 1905, being a decrease of £824.

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1906-7.

9

The figures for the quinquennial period 1902 to 1906, are as follows:—

Year.					Amount.
					£
1902	...	...	...	...	23,125
1903	...	...	...	...	16,580
1904	...	...	...	...	13,851
1905	...	...	...	...	17,325
1906	...	...	...	...	16,501

The following summary of imports gives the aggregate value of the various articles or goods imported during each of the last five years, showing also the increase or decrease in 1906 as compared with the previous year:—

Articles.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	In-crease 1906 over 1905.	De-crease 1906 under 1905.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Live Animals	3,450	1,350	3,723	2,427	1,457	—	870
Foodstuffs	136,831	146,081	142,249	161,659	150,786	—	10,873
Drinks	12,423	8,935	10,951	11,751	12,715	964	—
Narcotics	3,799	3,236	3,837	3,484	3,862	378	—
Raw Materials	24,064	12,222	18,233	10,833	13,460	2,627	—
Manufactured Articles, Textile ..	92,365	75,475	75,534	86,573	83,497	—	3,076
Metal ..	21,180	28,131	50,566	29,829	35,191	5,362	—
Other Manufactures	79,614	100,926	81,775	95,625	104,408	8,783	—
	373,726	376,356	388,868	402,181	405,376	18,114	14,919
Coin and Bullion	801	1,344	1,364	1,300	1,875	575	—
Total	374,527	377,700	388,232	403,481	407,251	18,689	14,919

Total increase of £3,770 in 1906.

Exports.

The total value of exports for the year 1906, exclusive of internal trade between the Presidencies, was £399,208, as against £447,994 in 1905, being a decrease of £48,786.

The following table gives the total value of exports during each of the last five years, distinguishing the countries to which the various articles were exported, together with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1906, as compared with 1905:—

Countries to which Exported.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	In-crease 1906 over 1905.	De-crease 1906 under 1905.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	78,292	67,178	79,256	122,970	161,614	38,644	—
British Colonies	129,611	152,075	175,458	228,593	178,445	—	48,148
United States of America ..	92,617	74,467	61,851	40,239	43,143	2,904	—
Other Foreign Countries ..	17,315	17,749	18,726	58,192	16,006	—	42,186
Total	317,835	311,469	335,290	447,994	399,208	41,548	80,334

A tabular statement showing the value of the principal exports during the last five years, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1906, as compared with 1905, is given in Table IV. of the Appendix.

The following table shows the export of sugar from each Presidency during the last ten years:—

Presidency.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	12,744	6,928	10,041	7,603	9,091	12,536	10,471	11,940	7,776	9,996
St. Kitts-Nevis ..	14,435	12,387	11,943	7,451	12,133	16,597	13,490	12,167	12,312	15,142
Dominica	565	339	278	107	152	148	214	129	131	82
Montserrat	810	411	553	223	579	996	845	429	134	351
Virgin Islands ..	1	—	—	—	35	2	—	2	11	—
Total	28,555	20,065	22,815	15,384	21,990	30,339	25,020	24,667	20,414	25,571

The following is a return of cotton exported from the Presidencies of Antigua (including Barbuda), St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands, during the years 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, and to 31st March, 1907. The value is taken at 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb.

Presidency.	1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.		To 31st March, 1907.	
	Lbs.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.
Antigua ...	151	£ 11 6 6	27,847	£ 1,508 7 7	54,720	£ 3,192 0 0	99,948	£ 6,454 19 6	45,600	£ 3,420 0 0
St. Kitts-Nevis ...	22,880	1,716 0 0	86,748	6,506 2 0	163,778	12,283 7 0	298,519	22,388 18 6	218,947	16,421 0 6
Montserrat ...	35,657	2,674 5 6	27,606	2,070 9 0	82,312	6,173 8 0	86,698	6,502 7 0	141,042	10,578 3 0
Virgin Islands ...	—	—	1,300	30 0 0	4,100	135 0 0	6,975	205 0 0	2,400	180 0 0
Total ...	58,688	4,401 12 0	143,501	10,114 18 7	304,910	21,783 15 0	492,140	35,551 5 0	407,989	30,599 3 6

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There is in Dominica one sulphur mine at Souffrière; and phosphates are found in the Islands of Redonda and Barbuda.

There is an interesting old mine in Virgin Gorda (one of the Virgin Islands group), which consists of several "stringers" of chalcopyrite, carrying copper and possibly gold. Molybdenum exists, and grey copper ore has been mined.

Manufactures.

Sugar is the principal manufacture of the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts, and in the latter Presidency the manufacture of rum is of some importance.

Lime juice is manufactured in Dominica and Montserrat, and in both these islands a strong attempt is being made to still further improve the prospects of the lime industry by the manufacture of citrate of lime.

Fisheries.

There are no organised fisheries. In 1904 the legislation which protected turtle and turtle eggs during certain months in the year was repealed, as it was found impossible to enforce the law against the fishermen of other nationalities, and the French Colonies especially were unwilling to enter into reciprocal arrangements having for their object the protection of turtle on the lines obtaining in this Colony.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANIC STATIONS.

Sugar Industry.

Sugar continues to be the principal industry in Antigua and St. Kitts; in Nevis and Montserrat it is in a decadent condition. This condition has just lately been accentuated in Nevis by the fact that one of the principal estates has ceased to make sugar, and another, the largest in the island, has discontinued planting this crop, and will cease to make it as soon as the crops now planted yield no more canes. It has been suggested that a central sugar factory would restore the industry, but it is difficult to obtain the necessary capital of some £50,000 to £60,000.

St. Kitts produced an average crop during the past season: much benefit has resulted to this island from the introduction of new varieties of sugar cane such as B. 147 and B. 208, whereby larger crops and freedom from disease have resulted.

The crop of Antigua was again small on account of the continuance of drought. The central sugar factory at Gunthorpes continued its operations successfully, making 2,348 tons of sugar. Some additions to plant and a small extension

of railway were made and paid for out of the year's working expenses, thus in some measure reducing apparent profits. Towards the end of the year a considerable extension of railway was made and additional plant added to the factory, including a Krajewski crusher to be used in the crop of 1907. This is now in operation and doing excellent work. The operations of the factory were extended by three additional estates entering into contracts to supply canes from 1907 onwards.

Bendal's factory was improved by the addition of Babcock and Wilcox water tube boilers. The operations are greatly facilitated by the existence of its tramway, which now extends over about three miles. The factory was very successfully operated, the output for the season being 1,178 tons.

Both these factories are under contract with the Government to purchase such peasants' canes as may be offered during a term of years, Gunthorpe's to the extent of 4,500 tons, and Bendal's 1,500 tons a year. There were actually purchased 1,811 tons at Gunthorpe's and 4,728 tons at Bendal's. This has given great impetus to the cultivation of canes by peasants, and very much larger quantities are forthcoming in the crop of 1907.

Improvements have been made in three muscovado sugar works whereby the whole of the boiling is conducted by steam instead of open fires, thus affording better control of the process of sugar making. At the same time improvements have been made in the furnaces, enabling them to burn the megass direct from the mill without subjecting it to a preliminary drying: this makes the work independent of weather conditions besides effecting many other economies.

Experimental cultivation of sugar cane has been continued under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture in Antigua and St. Kitts. The object of these experiments is to ascertain, by cultivation of a number of varieties of seedling canes, which canes are most likely to produce increases in the yield of sugar per acre, and at the same time are most resistant to disease. The effect of these experiments has been to eradicate cane disease in the Leeward Islands to a large extent and thus to increase the crops. The new varieties of cane now largely cultivated include B. 147, B. 208, Sealy Seedling, D. 95, and several others which are being carefully introduced. This work is now of fundamental importance to the industry.

Manurial experiments are also conducted with a view to ascertain the manurial requirements of the sugar cane. In all there are ten sugar experiment stations in Antigua and nine in St. Kitts; the results obtained are followed with keen interest by planters, who are now largely guided by them in their field operations.

An important step has been taken in the importation into Antigua of two sets of Fowler's steam ploughs by two separate

groups of estates: it is anticipated that better crops will result from the more thorough tillage which these will effect as well as from the ability to cultivate the land at the most appropriate season irrespective of the exigencies of crop operations.

One large firm has started an important series of experiments on a very large scale in an effort to introduce the methods of cultivation in vogue in Louisiana and some other countries, whereby instrumental tillage and weeding will largely replace hand labour. These experiments, which are of considerable importance, are watched with great interest.

A table showing the export of sugar from each Presidency of the Colony during the last ten years is given under II. (A.) Exports.

Cotton Industry.

This industry continues to make very considerable progress, and is now regarded as one of the important staples of the Leeward Islands. The season on the whole has been an unfavourable one for cotton throughout the West Indies, but the industry appears to have been little checked thereby. The quality of the cotton, particularly in Antigua, has been considerably improved during the last year or two.

At Antigua several estates, which have not been under cultivation for very many years, have been cleared and planted in cotton. A number of young men have purchased land and settled in the island with the intention of growing cotton. Some of them are now reaping remunerative crops. Two additional ginneries have been erected, and the ginnery hitherto profitably worked by the Department of Agriculture has been transferred to a company. There is thus much activity in connection with this industry.

In St. Kitts the industry is very successfully carried on in conjunction with sugar: owing to the easily worked character of the soil of this island a crop of cotton can be grown on the sugar fields immediately before the sugar crop is planted, thus dividing the cost of cultivation between the two crops: cotton has thus, in this island, become a valuable ally to sugar.

In Nevis a large area, some 1,700 acres, was planted in cotton, but, owing to unpropitious seasons, the crop is but a small one. There does not appear, however, any disposition to abandon the industry, which will be vigorously carried on for the next year's crop.

In Montserrat the industry has been quite successfully carried on and has now become a principal industry, ranking in importance with lime juice.

Very considerable progress in cotton-growing has been made in Anguilla, resulting in most marked changes in the welfare and condition of this small island, which has thus been restored

to a degree of prosperity beyond what it has enjoyed for a great number of years.

Owing to conditions peculiar to this island the crops of cotton are not heavy; they are, however, quickly and cheaply grown and are of excellent quality. Over 1,000 acres are now under cotton, and there are three ginneries at work.

A return of cotton exported from the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands during the years 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, and to the 31st March, 1907, is given under II. (A.) Exports.

The commercial extension of the cultivation of Sea Island cotton has been very marked in the Leeward Islands during the past four years. It is estimated that for the coming crop 1,800 acres are under cultivation in Antigua, 1,000 in Montserrat, and 4,000 in St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla. In the Virgin Islands the cultivation of cotton is gradually being extended. In Dominica its cultivation has made practically no headway, it being found that the climatic conditions are unsuitable to its successful growth.

In Nevis and Montserrat it would appear that cotton is gradually taking the place of cane as the staple crop.

The extension of the cultivation of the crop has been largely assisted by the British Cotton Growing Association. This Association has done much, in the way of providing money, machinery, and advice, for the advancement of the industry, which is now rapidly getting out of "leading strings" and being established on sound commercial lines.

The cultural work has largely been under the direction of the officers connected with the Imperial Department of Agriculture, to whose efforts the successful field work, the combating of pests, and the improvement in quality owe much. The department watches the industry very closely in all its stages, and is engaged in experimental work connected with the improvement of the quality of the cotton, the selection of seed, and the study of the various pests to which the crop is subject. The manner in which the cotton growers and the Department of Agriculture have worked together forms one of the most striking illustrations of the functions and usefulness of such a department.

Lime Industry.

The lime industry both in Dominica and Montserrat is in a satisfactory condition and continues to make steady advance. From both Presidencies citrate of lime is now being shipped on a large scale: the production of this article is held to be an improvement on the manufacture of concentrated lime juice. Concentrated juice is, however, still shipped in large quantities. Considerable quantities of raw juice are also shipped from both islands, for use in preparing beverages. Lime fruits are also

shipped in increasingly large quantities to Europe and America. Pickled limes also form an article of export.

The essential oils prepared from the lime, either by hand or by distillation, constitute exports of some importance.

Cacao.

Cacao continues to be one of the most important industries in Dominica, where the cultivation is being steadily extended. The Imperial Department of Agriculture has under its control a large number of experimental plots for the cultivation of cacao in various districts of the island, designed with the object of ascertaining the effect of various manures and different methods of cultivation on the crop. Some of these experiments have given highly interesting results demonstrating that the productiveness of the cacao trees can be very greatly increased. The results obtained in certain of these experiments have attracted wide attention and are likely to have considerable influence on the methods of cultivation. The details are given in the annual reports of the Dominica Botanic Station and in the West Indian Bulletin.

The Imperial Department of Agriculture has continued investigations on the pests and diseases affecting cacao, and advises as to their control.

In Nevis small pioneer cacao plantations are making good progress; small crops will soon be reaped. It is not, however, probable that any considerable area of Nevis will be found suitable for cacao.

The small plantations of cacao in St. Kitts are making sufficiently good progress to warrant further extensions, and larger areas are now being planted in a tentative manner.

The experimental plots of cacao at Tortola have made more progress than was anticipated; as a result other small plots are being planted in favoured localities, and it appears possible that cacao may here become a peasant industry.

Onion Industry.

Onions now constitute an established minor industry in Antigua, and to a smaller degree in Montserrat: their cultivation is being extended in other islands. They have been very successfully grown in Nevis and St. Kitts.

Fruit Industry.

Limes and oranges are shipped on a considerable scale from Dominica, and quantities of limes are also exported from Montserrat.

The pineapple industry in Antigua is practically extinct, the ravages of disease, the absence of shipping facilities, and the

greater attractions of cotton have all contributed to its decadence.

Tobacco.

The experimental cultivation of tobacco continues to be pursued in St. Kitts. The results have so far been promising, and point to the possibility of eventually establishing a cigar tobacco industry in the Island.

Rubber.

The cultivation of *Castilloa* rubber is being experimentally extended in all the islands. In Dominica there are a large number of trees. Some of these growing in the Botanic station have recently been tapped, and the resulting rubber sent to England for valuation and report. The reports obtained were favourable in all cases.

Botanic Stations.

Botanic and experiment stations are maintained in every Presidency, at which are conducted experiments with plants with the object of improving agricultural conditions by the introduction of superior varieties of existing crops, and also of introducing new plants with a view to the establishment of fresh industries. Reports are published annually showing the work in progress and detailing the results of experiments. Separate reports are issued dealing with the experiments with sugar canes. The work of the experiment station has had profound influence in several directions, notably in the sugar and cotton industries. The officers connected with these stations are also engaged in enquiries concerning diseases and pests attacking crops, and are ready to visit plantations and advise in this connection, and also in relation to the cultivation of existing crops, or to the introduction of new ones: much produce in a large number of classes. The Shows are having little expression in reports.

Agricultural Shows.

Shows of agricultural produce are now held annually in each Presidency, under the auspices of the Imperial Department of Agriculture and the local agricultural societies, at which prizes are awarded for the best exhibits of agricultural produce in a large number of classes. The Shows are having a marked effect in improving the quality of produce.

The following Shows have recently been held:—

Tortola	...	...	October 24th, 1906.
Montserrat	...	...	} November 9th, 1906.
Harris Village	...	...	
Antigua	...	...	February 28th, 1907.
St. Kitts	...	...	March 11th, 1907.
Nevis	...	...	April 4th, 1907.

Publications.

"The West Indian Bulletin" or Journal of the Imperial Department of Agriculture is issued quarterly. It contains scientific and general papers of agricultural interest and is the official means of publication of many results obtained in the experimental work of the department.

"The Agricultural News," issued fortnightly, affords useful information and advice on current topics of agricultural interest. Numerous reports and pamphlets are also issued on various subjects of agricultural importance, all of which give detailed information on the questions with which they deal.

In all the foregoing developments and efforts at advancement the Department of Agriculture has played a leading part. The botanic and experiment stations in each Presidency have conducted a great number of experiments with numerous crops, including sugar, cotton, cacao, limes, and a large number of others, particulars of which are to be found in the "Agricultural News" and the various departmental reports, the following of which are issued annually:—

Report on experiments with sugar-cane in the Leeward Islands, Parts I. and II.

Report on the botanic station experiment plots and agricultural education, Antigua.

Report on the botanic station, economic experiments, and agricultural education, St. Kitts-Nevis.

Report on the botanic station and experiment plots, Montserrat.

Report on the botanic station, agricultural school, and experiment plots, Dominica.

Report on the experiment station, Tortola, Virgin Islands.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

During the year under review 725 acres of Crown land were sold in the Island of Dominica to small peasants, and 983 acres to new settlers.

The interior of Dominica has been opened up by the "Imperial Road"; but roads are now required through the fertile valleys that lead down to the sea, and which are suitable for nearly every sub-tropical product and especially cocoa and limes.

The value of land in the Colony varies in accordance with its suitability for sugar cane or other products. In Dominica Crown lands can be purchased at 10s. an acre. In Antigua and St. Kitts the value of good cane land varies from £4 to £8 per acre.

(E.) SHIPPING.

A table showing the total tonnage of both steam and sailing vessels entered and cleared at the various ports of the Colony during the year 1906, distinguishing between British and foreign vessels, is given in Table V. of the Appendix.

Comparing the figures given in Table V. with those for 1905, there is a decrease of 1,872,900 tons in steam vessels, and an increase of 22,002 tons in sailing vessels.

The following table shows the total tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in each Presidency during each of the last five years, including both steam and sailing vessels, with columns showing the increase or decrease in 1906 as compared with 1905:—

Presidency.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	Increase 1906 over 1905.	Decrease 1906 under 1905.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Antigua	518,108	514,846	625,231	560,297	539,135	—	21,162
St. Kitts	575,972	558,168	580,349	586,893	624,603	27,610	—
Dominica	494,968	510,452	554,776	584,249	481,469	—	102,680
Montserrat	285,706	296,117	386,336	417,133	309,247	—	107,886
Virgin Islands ..	12,774	13,197	13,611	13,800	12,599	—	1,201
Total	1,835,548	1,891,780	2,169,713	2,172,472	1,967,253	27,610	232,829

III.—LEGISLATION.

The General Legislative Council of the Leeward Islands was in session from the 25th May, 1906, to the 30th of the same month. Ten Acts were passed, the most important of which are: "The Patents Act, 1906," and "The Supreme Court (Civil Procedure) Act, 1906." The latter Act extends to the Colony English Civil Procedure and practice.

Twelve Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council of Antigua, but the only one that calls for special mention is the Cotton Traffic Ordinance, 1906. This Ordinance provides for the licensing of the vendors and purchasers of seed cotton and lint cotton, and generally seeks to prevent illegal traffic in that article.

The Legislative Council of St. Kitts-Nevis passed eight Ordinances during the year. Of these the Basseterre Ordinance, 1906, abolishes the Town Board established by Ordinance No. 1 of 1901, that Board having proved a failure, and makes other provision for the Government of Basseterre.

The Legislative Council of Dominica passed eight Ordinances during the year, but none of them call for any special mention.

The Legislative Council of Montserrat passed eight Ordinances during the year, none of which call for any remark.

Three Ordinances were made by the Governor for the Virgin Islands under the provisions of section 4 of Leeward Islands Act No. 16 of 1902. None of them call for special mention.

OBEAH ACT.

The Obeah Act, 1904, has now been in operation for three years, and it is perhaps opportune to consider its effect. It is very pleasing to be able to record that the Act has been a marked success, and that the degrading and dangerous crime of practising obeah has received a check from which it is never likely to recover. "Obeah," "Voodoo," or "Juju," is, in the West Indies, the survival of the whole body of primitive beliefs and customs of fetichistic African tribes. Its great danger is the power which a belief in its practices places in the hands of some degraded but sharp-witted scamp, who with no belief in it himself, terrorises over the community he visits or resides in. The Act referred to makes the possession of any "instrument of Obeah" a proof of the crime of practising Obeah unless the contrary be proved, and provides for the whipping of males and for police supervision. Whipping is never ordered for a first offence. The police were encouraged to take energetic action under the new law, and several Obeah men quickly discovered that the Leeward Islands were no longer a fitting place for abode. The Obeahman now finds it a difficult and dangerous thing to keep his stock in trade by him, and deprived of his paraphernalia of human skulls, cocks' heads, bones, and filthy messes, his fame has vanished. When, as in the case of a well-known Obeahman ordinarily resident in Montserrat, but whose operations extended over the Colony, a flogging is added to some wholesome detention ridicule of his practices takes the place of the dread which they formerly inspired. Up to the very last the peasants believed, in the case referred to, that the threatened degradation of a flogging would be ward off by some magic influence. It is probable that Obeah, in this Colony at any rate, is responsible for very few cases of poisoning. It would not appear that any knowledge of African bush poisons survives in these Islands, and any attempts to use the ordinary poisons that would be within his reach are too dangerous for the average Obeahman. Though it is perhaps too much to hope that the ignorant portion of a race that has only been in its new environment some four or five generations will completely lose yet awhile the beliefs that its African ancestors held for perhaps thousands of years, yet the spread of education and repressive measures of the kind here referred to have worked a marvellous change for the better in a very short space of time.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The number of children on the rolls of the Government and State-aided primary schools for the year 1906-7 was 26,627, as against 26,326 for the year 1905-6. The average attendance was 12,143, as against 11,801 for the previous year.

In 1890, the year of the establishment of compulsory education, there were only 12,000 children on the roll, with an average attendance of 7,000.

The following table shows the number on the roll, the average attendance, school fees, Government grant, and voluntary contributions during the last five years:—

—	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
Number on roll ...	25,329	26,317	26,854	26,326	26,627
Average attendance ...	11,985	12,352	12,591	11,801	12,143
	£	£	£	£	£
School fees ...	91	99	44	33	43
Government grant ...	6,347	6,375	6,245	6,362	5,993
Voluntary contributions ...	488	418	417	400	389

(B.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The following is a list of the secondary education schools of the Colony with their respective grants:—

Name.	Grant.
	£ s. d.
Antigua Grammar School* ...	256 10 0
St. Kitts Grammar School ...	212 0 0
Antigua Girls' High School† ...	125 0 0
Dominica Grammar School ...	402 0 0
Spring Gardens Female Training College, Antigua ...	150 0 0

* £50 for scholarships.

† £25 for scholarships.

(C.) INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

There is one industrial school in the Colony, viz., the Training School at Antigua, to which boys are sent from all the Presidencies.

The number of boys at the beginning of the year was 39, 20 were admitted during the year, 2 were released on licence and 2 were discharged.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Lessons and lectures in the secondary grade of agricultural instruction are given by the agricultural and science master at the Antigua Grammar School, who is provided by the Imperial Department of Agriculture. This department also gives seven agricultural scholarships, which are tenable at that school of the annual value of £10 each.

The lessons and lectures this year have comprised: (i) lessons in chemistry, agriculture, and animal physiology at the Antigua Grammar School, (ii) lessons in plant physiology and general science at the Girls' High School, lectures at the Female Training College on tropical hygiene, lectures to the elementary school teachers of the island on tropical hygiene. Every boy at the Grammar School takes at least one of the science subjects, so that about seventy boys attend the classes. The numbers in the classes from the Girls' High School are fifteen and nine respectively. From the Female Training College sixteen students attend the lectures, and, of the elementary school teachers, about fifteen have availed themselves of the opportunity to attend the lectures on tropical hygiene.

In the cases of the Female Training College and the elementary teachers, the work has for its object the improvement and extension of the teaching of science subjects in elementary schools.

DOMINICA AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL. •

The school is maintained by the Imperial Department of Agriculture; it was opened December 1st, 1900. The officer in charge received his training at the Royal Gardens, Kew, and is assisted by a schoolmaster.

The object of the school is to afford sons of peasants and small planters definite technical and practical training in agriculture, with a view to the boys subsequently occupying positions on estates. The boys, in addition to agricultural teaching, receive a general elementary education; the boys reside at the school. The curriculum includes a large amount of outdoor work, and a number of experiment plots are maintained in connection with the school.

A certain amount of live stock is maintained at the school. The full complement of boys is 20.

The school is examined half-yearly, and is also periodically inspected.

A number of boys have passed through the course of training at the school, and are now occupying positions as overseers, etc., on estates.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

In the year 1906, 2,999 patients were admitted into the hospitals of the Colony.

There were 425 deaths. Of this number 258 died in the hospital at Antigua. *See* Table VII. of the Appendix.

(B.) LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

There is a central lunatic asylum for the Colony at Skerretts, Antigua.

The following table gives the statistics for the year 1906:—

Asylum.	Number in Asylum on 1st January, 1906.	Admissions.	Cured.	Relieved.	Not improved.	Deaths.
Central Lunatic Asylum, Antigua	108	41	13	—	—	17

(C.) LEPER ASYLUMS.

There are three leper asylums in the Colony—two in Antigua (one at Keelings Point for females, and the other at Rat Island for males) and one at Fort Charles, St. Kitts.

In Antigua there were 39 lepers in the asylums at the beginning of the year; 4 were admitted during the year, and 1 died.

In St. Kitts there were 61 lepers at the beginning of the year; two were admitted during the year, and 3 died.

The total number of cases treated in these asylums for the last ten years is as follows:—

Year.	Antigua.	St. Kitts.
1897	34	61
1898	39	71
1899	44	76
1900	46	73
1901	44	71
1902	37	63
1903	40	71
1904	30	62
1905	46	74
1906	43	63

There is no record, in Antigua at any rate, of any attendant at the asylums having contracted leprosy.

(D.) POOR-HOUSE.

The number of inmates in the Antigua Poor-House on the 1st January, 1906, was 113 (40 males and 73 females); 35 inmates were admitted during the year, and 12 were discharged.

The number of persons receiving outdoor relief in Antigua was 659, the total amount distributed being £405.

(E.) SAVINGS BANK.

The number of depositors and the amount to their credit on the 31st December, 1906, are given in the table below:—

Place.			No.	Amount.
				£
Antigua	...	...	1,688	38,057
St. Kitts	...	}	598	17,527
Nevis	...			
Dominica	...	...	521	9,174
Montserrat	...	...	142	3,092
Virgin Islands...	...	...	96	318
Total	...	...	3,045	£68,168

The following table shows the number of depositors, the amounts deposited and withdrawn in the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.			No. of Depositors.	Deposited.	Withdrawn.
				£	£
1902	...	...	2,857	21,560	22,719
1903	...	...	2,731	21,443	22,252
1904	...	...	2,930	22,195	21,390
1905	...	...	3,050	24,702	23,616
1906	...	...	3,045	27,017	25,183

The total amount of invested funds is £69,924.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The armed force of the Leeward Islands numbered on the 1st January, 1906, a total strength of 4 officers and 170 men, stationed as follows:—

Antigua.—1 officer and 58 non-commissioned officers and men.

St. Kitts-Nevis.—2 officers and 60 non-commissioned officers and men.

Dominica.—1 officer and 35 non-commissioned officers and men.

Montserrat.—15 non-commissioned officers and men.

Virgin Islands.—2 men.

The men are armed with the Martini-Enfield rifle, and are a smart and well set-up body.

(B.) PRISONS.

The total number of persons committed to prison in the several gaols of the Colony during the year 1906 was 1,360 (665 males, 666 females, and 29 juveniles).

The total number of prisoners received during the year at the Central Prison, Antigua, was 223 males and 188 females.

Thirty-four males and one female were received from the other Presidencies, as follows:—

Presidency.					Males.	Females.	Total.
St. Kitts-Nevis	...	...	...	...	18	1	19
Dominica	...	...	...	...	14	—	14
Montserrat	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Virgin Islands	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Total	...	...	...	...	34	1	35

The prisoners were employed in the usual duties of the prison, such as cooking for the prisoners, baking bread for the hospital, poor-house, lunatic and leper asylums, Skerrett's School, and the prison; making and mending clothing and bedding for the prison and Skerrett's School; also in quarrying, stone-breaking, smithy work, masonry, and carpentry.

The cost of each prisoner was at the rate of £17 7s. 0d. per annum.

Two male prisoners died during the year.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following table gives the total number of offences reported to the police during each of the last five years, together with convictions and acquittals in each year:—

Year.			Offences reported.	Convicted.	Acquitted, died awaiting trial, or <i>nolle prosequi</i> entered.
1902	...	...	13,385	6,719	6,530
1903	...	...	13,385	6,700	6,176
1904	...	...	13,862	7,660	4,318
1905	...	...	14,606	8,476	5,372
1906	...	...	14,227	6,665	6,726

Of the offences reported, 3,878 were offences against the person, 715 for praedial larceny, 1,358 for offences against property (other than praedial larceny), and the remaining cases comprise all other offences.

Summary convictions were recorded against 6,665 persons in the Magistrates' Court, the number of convictions in the Superior Courts amounting to 34.

6,701 persons were acquitted in the Magistrates' Courts and 17 in the Superior Courts, and a *nolle prosequi* was entered in 8 cases.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The last census was taken in 1901, when the total population was returned at 127,434.

There were 4,786 births and 3,154 deaths during the year.

Of the births, 1,873 were legitimate, and 2,913 or 60 per cent. illegitimate.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health during the year was satisfactory. There were no epidemics of a serious nature.

(C.) CLIMATE.

Rainfall—Antigua.

Average rainfall, 1906, January to December, 53·93 inches.

Average rainfall 33 years, 1874-1906, 45·82 inches.

Highest rainfall recorded in any year, 73·59 inches in 1889.

Lowest rainfall recorded in any year, 28·78 inches in 1875.

Highest maximum temperature 1906, 92°.

Lowest minimum temperature 1906, 64°.

Three earthquakes were recorded in 1906: June 24th, August 17th, and December 3rd.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

(A.) POST OFFICE.

The revenue and expenditure for postal services for the last five years are given in Table VI. of the Appendix.

The net profit on the working for the year was £1,988, as compared with £2,519 for the previous year.

The following table gives the statistics of postal matter sent to and from the Colony during the last five years:—

Year.	Letters and Cards received and sent.	Books and Papers received and sent.	Parcels received and sent.
1902 	613,761	173,447	8,707
1903 	604,573	196,667	8,998
1904 	662,516	200,872	10,112
1905 	678,099	224,427	10,247
1906 	641,963	218,808	10,127

Comparing the figures for 1906 with those for 1905 we find a decrease of 36,136 letters and cards received and sent, 5,619 books and papers received and sent, and 120 parcels received and sent.

The total value of money orders issued on the Colony was £33,431, as against £22,492 in 1905, and the value of orders paid for the Colony £16,109, as against £15,635.

(B.) TELEGRAPHS.

The subsidies paid to the West India and Panama Telegraph Company amount to £1,400 per annum, of which Antigua pays £500, St. Kitts-Nevis £500, and Dominica £400.

There is no telegraphic communication with either Montserrat or the Virgin Islands.

(C.) TELEPHONES.

There are telephone services in the Presidencies of Antigua, St. Kitts, and Dominica.

In Antigua there are 161 instruments in use and 290 miles of wire; in St. Kitts 92 instruments and 254 miles of wire; in Dominica, 110 instruments and 325 miles of wire.

The receipts and expenditure for the year under review are as follows:—

	Presidency.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
		£	£
	Antigua ...	787	667
	St. Kitts...	419	552
	Dominica ...	503	598

IX.—MILITARY FORCES.

Defence forces exist in the Presidencies of Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis.

In Antigua the force was established in 1897, and consists of mounted infantry, numbering 36 officers and men.

The infantry company was disbanded on the 15th November, 1904, and a Defence Reserve established under Ordinance No. 7 of 1904.

The St. Kitts-Nevis Defence Force consists of mounted infantry and infantry, numbering 88 officers and men, and was established in 1896.

A Defence Reserve Force was established in Dominica during the year 1904, and a similar force at Montserrat.

The arms for all the forces are on loan from the Imperial Government.

Constabulary or semi-military Colonial Force, *see* Police.

X.—CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

No changes of importance occurred under this head during the year.

XI.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year under review has been one of marked agricultural activity, and the vital importance of agricultural knowledge is beginning to be fully realised throughout the Colony. These are agricultural communities, and without a progressive agricultural policy directed by a strong Department of Agriculture they cannot hold their own in the markets of the world. The work of an Agricultural Department must, in order to be really efficient, be well ahead of the local requirements for the time being. It must lay the foundation for new industries, and repair old ones. It is only by an intelligent anticipation of events that "sudden" outbreaks of plant disease can be successfully met, and any lessening of the efforts of the present

Department, owing to lack of funds, would be disastrous to every Presidency. The work of the Department of Agriculture has been a conspicuous success in this Colony, and as the history of these islands must be the history of agricultural effort, it will be, perhaps, useful to glance at the steps which have been taken in this direction.

The development of agricultural effort is closely connected with the history of the laboratories and botanic, or as they might be more fittingly termed, experiment stations, and it is from these centres that knowledge has radiated. The progressive policy of Sir W. Haynes Smith created, in the year 1889, laboratories, followed by botanic stations, and valuable work was done by the officers employed until the year 1899, when the Imperial Department of Agriculture assumed the direction of agricultural efforts. In these years, amongst other work, pedigree stock had been imported into the Colony with a view to the improvement of local breeds, and resistant varieties of cane had been introduced to replace the Bourbon, which, it was found, readily succumbed to rind fungus. The data and information which subsequently rendered possible the establishment of sugar factories in Antigua were also obtained, and, generally, the laboratories (or rather the laboratory at Antigua, for that in St. Kitts, unfortunately, had a short life) and the stations referred to became the centres of agricultural effort.

In 1899 more funds became available and a strong impetus was given to the movement. In 1903 the extension of the duties of the Analytical and Agricultural Chemist by his appointment as Superintendent of Agriculture for the Colony brought about the most happy results. Agricultural efforts throughout the scattered Colony were systematised and brought into closer touch, and the phenomenal success of the cotton industry is very largely due to the practical help given by the Department, and the untiring efforts of its officers to instil the necessary knowledge. The industries of Dominica require watching quite as close as that which has in former years been given to the sugar-producing islands, and it is to be hoped that when the time comes for the Imperial Government to cease its contribution in aid of the Agricultural Department, public opinion in the Colony will have been sufficiently educated to fully realise the absolute necessity of straining every effort to keep the Department in full working order.

An important event of the year was the visit of the delegates from the various Boards of Trade in the Dominion of Canada, who met and consulted with representative gatherings of the planters, merchants, and business men of the Presidencies with a view to fostering trade between the Dominion and the Colony. The meetings were of an essentially practical and business-like nature, and can hardly fail to benefit the trade relations between the two places.

The absence of proper steam communication with the neighbouring Colonies has been severely felt. Letters and goods from Europe for the Colony have had to wait for days and, sometimes, weeks at Barbadoes for a chance opportunity of conveyance to their destination. What the Colony wants is a linking up by steam communication with St. Thomas on the one side and with Barbados on the other.

ANTIGUA.

The financial condition of this Presidency has shown a great improvement during the year. The expenditure, excluding that of the Botanical Department defrayed from Imperial Funds, only exceeded the revenue by £1,031, instead of by £5,572 as was estimated to be the case. This deficit is the smallest that has occurred for the past 13 years. The difference between the actual and the estimated deficit is so large as to require some explanation. An analysis of the figures shows that the actual increase of revenue was £973, and that as regards expenditure some £900 of the saving was due to the discontinuance of the mail contract with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. There were genuine savings, however, under most of the heads of expenditure, and though the Presidency cannot by any means be said to be out of the financial wood, yet its prospects are undoubtedly better than they have been for a long time past. There has been a good deal of emigration during the year, especially to the Isthmus of Panama, and complaints are being made locally as to the scarcity of labour. This emigration has, however, resulted in increased wages, and there can be no doubt that the condition of the peasantry has been materially improved by the competition for labour which has taken place between the local planters, the sugar planter of St. Croix, and the Isthmian Canal agents. Fears were entertained by some that the impetus given to emigration would result in numbers of women, children, and old people, the dependents of emigrants, becoming a burden to the Government, and the opinion was even expressed in certain directions that the Government should, by a stringent application of emigration laws, check the tide of emigration. As a matter of fact, the moneys remitted from the United States during the year amounted to £2,160, and 70 per cent. of this amount was from labourers. Between August, 1906, and the 31st of March of the present year, Antigua labourers at the Canal Zone remitted £1,321 to their families in Antigua. The fact is, that the Presidency has, in some directions, materially benefited for the present at any rate, by the emigration. The labourers left behind have been able to press with success for higher wages, and those who have left have, in the majority of cases, sent generous support to their dependents. The result has been a great increase in the purchasing power of the community. The impetus given to cotton cultivation by the high prices

which have been obtained for that article has also tended to raise the price of labour by creating fresh demands, and the old complaint as to the futility of increasing the wage of the negro as an incentive to work is being heard. He works fewer days in the week it is said, as the higher rate has given him all the cash he wants. Increased prosperity should, however, create new wants in him, and these new wants may supply the incentive for labour. However this may be, there is no doubt that at the present time there is a scarcity of labour on some estates, and that the extension of certain industrial enterprises is being retarded thereby. The introduction which is taking place of mechanical labour-saving appliances will do a great deal, but for the most part the matter must be left to the natural readjustment of a state of things which has been rather violently disrupted.

The Grey Crystal Sugar Factories, established at Gunthorpes and Bendals, continue to be a success, and the fullest advantage is taken by the labouring population of the obligation on the part of the owners of these factories to grind peasants' canes.

BARBUDA.

This Crown estate continues to show financial improvement, and with a steady adherence to the policy inaugurated in 1903 the island should do well. In the year referred to, the Secretary of State laid it down that the island should be managed directly as a Crown estate, and energetic efforts have been made to improve its condition. The British Cotton Growing Association made a grant of £100 for the purpose of experimenting with cotton, and the venture has proved very successful.

There are about 160 Government horses on the island and 125 cattle, and as only pure bred Zebu bulls are kept among the latter, the continued existence of a strain which has done so much to improve the breed of cattle in this Presidency appears to be assured. The island has an area of some 60 square miles, and with its 800 acres of walled enclosure, its "catching pens," wells, and excellent pasturage, it is an ideal place for a successful stock estate. Efforts are being made to improve the breed of horses by the importation of thoroughbred stallions from Jamaica.

The population numbers some 800, and the labour supply is probably sufficient for the cultivation of 400 acres of cotton.

The tarpon fishing obtainable in the lagoon and along the shores of the island has proved an attraction to sportsmen, and excellent deer shooting may be had at a small cost. Guinea fowl and duck are also plentiful.

ST. CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS.

This Presidency emerged in 1902-3 from dependence on the Imperial Government, and its record is one of steady progress. The revenue for the year under review more than fulfilled

expectations, and enabled the Government to pay off £2,500 of debt. The surplus of assets has risen from £9,007 at the 31st of March, 1905, to £12,650 at the 31st of March, 1906.

Seasons were favourable, the sugar crop was up to the average, and cultivation of cotton has been extended. For the first time for many years the revenue of the Island of Anguilla, which forms part of the Presidency, exceeded the expenditure, and financial dependence on St. Kitts has thus ceased for the present, at any rate. This gratifying state of things is due to the success which has attended the cultivation of cotton.

The Island of Nevis unfortunately did not share in the general good fortune of the Presidency. This was principally due to the comparative failure of the cotton crop.

As was foreshadowed in last year's report, the Government have taken over the control of municipal matters in the town of Basseterre, and the Town Board has ceased to exist. The good results of this change are already apparent.

The public health has been good, though the rate of infant mortality is higher than it should be.

DOMINICA.

The finances of this Presidency continue to be eminently satisfactory. The Presidency has grown and is annually growing on a solid foundation in the wealth of her resources. These resources are being opened out and applied year by year. During the past ten years many newcomers have settled in the island. Some have acquired private lands already under cultivation, and others have purchased from the Crown upwards of 5,000 acres, in the aggregate, of forest land. These lands they are now actively clearing and placing under cultivation. Peasant proprietors have also acquired within the same period some 1,200 acres of Crown land.

The two principal products are limes and cocoa, and the high prices obtained of late have greatly encouraged the further extension of these industries. Whether the new settlers in certain lands in the interior of the island will find their estates as profitable as those situated nearer the coast can only be at present a matter for conjecture, and it will be as well, perhaps, if caution were exercised as regards expensive ventures in this direction. At the present time two projects are being worked out by private parties for the development of the timber industry and the occupation of the forest lands as they are cleared. In connection with one of these schemes it is proposed to construct a tramway to the sea-board to facilitate the transport of the timber cut and of the produce from the interior of the island.

The manufacture of citrate of lime, as a substitute for concentrated lime juice, has given most promising results, and the export of this article is likely to show a considerable increase.

Citrate of lime is a purer product than concentrated lime juice, and is more favoured by citric acid makers in England and America. Its increased production in Dominica will raise the lime industry and make for its stability.

The installation of the electric light in the town of Roseau has been completed at a total cost of £3,794 17s. 11d. The street and house service was started in thorough working order on the 1st of October, 1906, and all the lights available have been taken up.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie presented a building for a free public library, which was opened to the public in September.

MONTSERRAT.

The Presidency ceased to be a burden on the Imperial Exchequer in 1905-6, having closed that year with a surplus of £1,299. Of this amount, however, £972 was unexpended Imperial grant-in-aid for 1904-5; £472 has been repaid the Imperial Government out of general revenue, and the remaining £500 is to be repaid during 1907-8.

The general revenue for the year under review was £8,732, and the expenditure £7,050, leaving a surplus of £1,682. This is a state of affairs unprecedented in the history of Montserrat.

The revenue returns show material increases, almost every item being in excess of the previous year.

The principal items showing increases are "Import Duties (General)" with an increase of £487; "Import Duties (Alcoholic)" £334, and "Export Duties" £487.

The import duties general (*ad valorem*) were reduced from 15 per cent. to 13½ per cent. in January, 1907—yet the receipts for the quarter ended 31st March, 1907, from this source exceed the receipts for the corresponding quarter of the previous year by £223.

The net increase of revenue in excess of the previous year is £1,289.

The expenditure during the year on ordinary and recurrent services is £529 less than the previous year, and £1,783 less than in 1904-5.

Cotton has become the staple industry, and the high price obtained for this article has resulted in the peasants taking eagerly to its cultivation to the exclusion even of ground provisions. This is unfortunate, as any failure of the cotton crop would be attended by unhappy results in the absence of an adequate food supply. While the great increase in the prosperity of the Presidency, which is so largely due to the success of cotton and limes, is eminently satisfactory it is well to bear in mind that cotton may prove a precarious crop. It is peculiarly subject to the effect of unpropitious seasons, and of pests, while the prices realised during the past seasons have been

abnormally high. Some time must therefore be allowed to elapse before it can be claimed with certainty that Montserrat has seen the end of its industrial difficulties, though there is reason to hope that this is the case.

The citrate of lime industry is rapidly progressing, and an interesting attempt is being made to create an industry in preserved fruits, jams, jellies, pickles, and other similar products. An important business in drawn-thread and needlework is also being developed. The prosperity of the island is severely handicapped and its progress greatly retarded by the absence of cable connection with the other islands, and the irregularity of the steamship calls. On several occasions during the year under review large quantities of fresh fruit have been lost owing to the non-arrival of expected steamers.

VIRGIN ISLANDS.

The year has been a prosperous one for this Presidency.

The total local revenue amounted to £2,424 19s. 4*d.*, and exceeded by £393 4*s.* the expenditure for the year. On the 31st of March there was a surplus of £451 13*s.* 7*d.* of assets over liabilities.

The whole of the land in this Presidency is in the possession of the peasants, who in most islands of the group have no difficulty in obtaining adequate support from it. There is an abundant supply of fish and milk. A large family is regarded as a valuable asset, and not as a burden as is the case of so many parts of the West Indies. It is pleasing to record that the interest shown by the people in the work of the Agricultural Department, which at first they regarded with suspicion, is steadily increasing. Cotton-growing has made satisfactory progress, and the quality of the cotton grown shows a marked improvement. It has been found advisable for the Government to offer to purchase the cotton grown, and the whole of it has been disposed of in this way. The circumstances of the Virgin Islands are exceptional, being an isolated group of islands inhabited by peasant proprietors who expect the Government to be a paternal one, and to aid them in matters which, in more advanced communities, are left to private enterprise.

The Tariff Ordinance of 1905, which admitted boat-building materials free of import duty, has been followed, as was hoped, by a marked revival of the industry of boat building. Local shipwrights have now more orders than they are able to execute. With increasing prosperity it is probable that more of the Virgin islanders will remain at home, but at present nearly half the male population between the ages of 16 and 60 find employment out of the Presidency. They visit their homes for a few months annually, merely regarding them as a place to rear their families and only for permanent residence in old age. A large number obtain employment in connection with the

shipping at St. Thomas, and others work on the sugar estates at Santo Domingo.

This state of things illustrates the dependence of a peasant proprietary, even under really favourable conditions, on regular wage-earning employment. If, too, the power of wage earning be altogether cut off, the conditions of life quickly sink to a lower level, civilising influences weaken, and rehabilitation becomes a difficult matter.

E. ST. JOHN BRANCH,

Colonial Secretary.

Leeward Islands,
17th August, 1907.

TABLE I.—Comparative Statement of Revenue collected in each Presidency of the Colony in the Years 1905-6 and 1906-7.

Heads of Revenue.	Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Montserrat.							
	1905-6.		1905-6.		1905-6.									
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.								
Customs—														
Import Duties on other than alcoholic liquors.	18,715	0 10	20,125	8 8	19,449	17 1	20,395	6 2	12,316	9 10	13,300	15 4	3,035	6 6
Import Duties on alcoholic liquor	5,502	1 5	6,601	13 6	3,511	1 8	4,113	7 9	2,491	15 10	1,899	12 3	1,412	1 8
Export Duty	—	—	—	—	2,996	10 2	3,367	18 9	1,664	6 4	1,945	18 6	630	11 7
Port, Harbour Dues, &c.	24,217	2 3	26,727	2 2	25,957	8 11	27,876	12 8	16,472	12 0	17,146	6 1	5,077	19 9
Internal Revenue—	2,746	2 2	2,928	17 8	3,811	19 4	4,097	12 3	2,048	2 1	2,140	8 0	263	3 10
Excise	920	5 1	240	17 0	4,215	7 0	3,851	19 2	3,381	7 3	4,138	0 3	—	—
Taxes	4,332	6 3	4,202	18 6	3,639	12 10	4,386	18 8	3,350	13 7	3,394	3 10	724	0 0
Licences	1,334	5 2	1,360	11 1	2,420	12 0	2,376	16 8	1,871	15 1	2,094	12 3	265	17 2
Rates	—	—	—	—	518	19 4	1,020	4 10	—	—	—	—	62	5 9
Miscellaneous	318	11 6	295	13 8	395	10 0	444	6 0	661	15 9	639	8 5	73	8 11
Fees of Court, &c.	6,905	8 5	6,100	0 3	11,190	1 2	12,080	5 4	9,265	11 8	10,265	4 9	1,125	11 10
Municipal Rates and Taxes	11,652	9 2	5,765	10 7	2,695	8 6	1,935	10 4	1,424	14 6	1,584	13 4	227	7 1
Post Office, &c.	2,615	8 9½	2,389	9 9½	345	2 6	342	3 3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lime Industry	—	—	—	—	2,128	12 9	2,033	10 4	1,579	16 5½	1,727	14 2½	705	1 8
Rents	140	15 5	138	2 9	401	19 8	551	3 6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Interest	36	3 6	19	18 6	258	4 5	354	0 4	79	9 1	105	12 8	6	19 3
Miscellaneous	484	11 1	55	18 7	156	19 10	228	15 10	118	13 5	109	8 7	1	8 0
Land Sales	—	—	50	5 0	199	5 6	114	3 2	211	11 1	138	14 1	20	19 2½
	48,798	0 9½	44,175	5 3½	47,145	2 7	49,613	17 0	31,200	10 3½	33,209	1 8½	7,438	6 7½

Comparative Statement of Revenue—cont.

Heads of Revenue.	Montserrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total for Colony.		Increase.		Decrease.	
	1906-7.		1905-6.		1906-7.		1906-7.		1906-7.	
	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Customs—										
Import Duties on other than alcoholic liquors.	3,521	14 0	573	19 3	620	14 5	57,963	18 7	3,873	5 1
Import Duties on alcoholic liquor	1,745	11 11	51	9 9	35	3 7	14,395	9 0	1,426	18 8
Export Duty	1,118	4 10	454	18 3	437	14 3	6,869	16 4	1,123	10 0
Ports, Harbour Dues, &c. ...	6,385	10 9	1,080	7 3	1,093	12 3	79,229	3 11	6,423	13 9
Internal Revenue—	152	0 7	47	7 7	32	3 10	9,351	2 4	434	7 4
Excise	22	2 2	—	—	—	—	8,516	19 4	—	—
Taxes	803	2 0	350	3 10	327	11 6	13,114	14 6	717	17 7
Licences	332	18 6	250	7 6	231	0 3	6,415	18 9	273	1 10
Rates	67	17 3	—	—	—	—	1,088	2 1	506	17 0
Miscellaneous	63	11 3	40	3 9	35	15 7	1,478	14 11	—	—
Fees of Court, &c. ...	1,309	11 2	640	15 1	594	7 4	30,350	8 10	1,497	16 5
Municipal Rates and Taxes	265	6 4	132	3 11	307	15 9	9,858	16 4	274	15 9
Post Office, &c. ...	567	16 4½	547	18 4	365	10 3	342	3 3	6,273	6 10
Lime Industry	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,084	0 11½	2	19 3
Rents	7	17 9	1	18 6	2	9 0	551	3 6	492	17 0½
Interest	10	0 2	12	16 11	16	12 6	608	2 6	149	3 10
Miscellaneous	25	8 0	14	6 3	11	4 5	384	15 7	120	15 10
Land Sales	8	0 0	0	8 0	1	4 0	335	8 3	58	13 11
	8,731	11 1½	2,478	1 10	2,424	19 4	59	9 0	54	5 0
							138,154	14 5½	8,738	16 1
									7,639	3 9
Net increase					£1,099 12s. 4d.					

TABLE II.—Comparative Statement of the Expenditure in each Presidency in the Years 1905-6 and 1906-7.

Heads of Expenditure.		Antigua.		St. Kitts-Nevis.		Dominica.		Montserrat.	
		1905-6.	1906-7.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1905-6.	1906-7.
1	Charges on Account of Public Debt	£ 6,885	£ 6,815	£ 3,888	£ 3,606	£ 3,375	£ 3,375	£ 585	£ 585
2	Pensions	1,370	1,241	1,578	1,533	716	716	177	177
3	Legislature	75	228	—	—	53	53	—	—
4	Island Secretary (Commissioner)	184	174	985	925	1,151	1,151	620	620
5	Federal Contribution	2,871	2,850	3,018	2,373	2,386	2,386	512	512
6	Treasury and Customs	1,592	1,594	1,884	2,111	2,120	2,120	486	486
7	Audit	23	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
8	Port and Marine	1,537	1,039	404	405	94	94	—	—
9	Registrar and Provost Marshal	986	920	748	2,430	808	808	14	14
10	Magistrates	327	306	1,607	2,430	843	843	39	39
11	Prisons	2,656	2,485	1,008	868	1,815	1,815	12	12
12	Medical	2,068	1,959	1,968	1,845	1,169	1,169	1,010	1,010
13	Hospitals	7,452	7,178	6,903	6,517	1,679	1,679	122	122
14	Education	1,915	1,883	2,416	2,444	2,651	2,651	484	484
15	Ecclesiastical	—	—	286	286	—	—	536	536
16	Board of Health	2,604	2,622	1,885	2,437	149	149	714	714
17	Registration and Vaccination	—	—	30	39	125	125	167	167
18	Public Market	218	258	30	39	47	47	187	187
19	Public Library	—	—	60	100	51	51	34	34
20	Laboratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10
21	Military	532	363	759	657	75	75	—	—
22	Miscellaneous	1,131	1,033	1,411	1,867	204	204	64	64
23	Post Office	1,415	1,142	1,159	1,203	1,969	1,969	310	310
24	Telegraphs	500	375	511	524	833	833	145	145
25	Telephones	741	715	611	580	400	400	—	—
26	Electric Lighting	992	992	1,095	1,122	491	491	—	—
27	Public Works Department	3,555	3,211	3,415	3,747	313	313	16	16
28	Recurrent	2,532	2,567	2,631	2,631	697	697	455	455
29	Extraordinary	587	567	—	—	2,305	2,305	2	2
30	Barbadoes	621	621	250	70	5,139	5,139	56	56
31	Local Department of Agriculture	—	—	182	147	—	—	13	13
32	Repayment of Loans	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10
33	Forestry Department	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34	From Loan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	Total	54,383	45,208	44,025	46,067	34,186	30,114	7,106	7,106

Comparative Statement of Expenditure—cont.

Heads of Expenditure.		Montserrat.		Virgin Islands.		Total for Colony.		Increase.		Decrease.	
		1906-7.		1905-6.		1906-7.		1906-7.		1906-7.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1	Charges on Account of Public Debt	594	9 10	—	—	14,584	9 7	—	—	—	—
2	Pensions ..	130	16 5	50	0 8	3,763	5 1	—	—	142	16 10
3	Legislature ..	—	—	—	—	3,683	13 4	—	—	79	11 8
4	Land Secretary (Commissioner) ..	—	—	528	19 2	—	—	148	16 11	—	—
5	Federal Contribution ..	972	4 9	538	13 3	3,664	14 0	—	—	150	15 7
6	Treasury and Customs ..	530	11 6	428	14 10	3,493	13 10	—	—	883	14 9
7	Audit ..	—	—	379	9 6	—	—	203	17 5	—	—
8	Port and Marine ..	—	—	—	—	1,621	15 3 7	—	—	—	—
9	Registrar and Provost Marshal ..	13	8 7	—	—	1,505	5 11	—	—	116	9 3
10	Magistrates ..	28	17 9	9	18 7	2,093	10 2	—	—	—	—
11	Police ..	12	0 0	14	11 6	3,397	10 2	2,128	13 5	—	—
12	Prisons ..	789	15 1	89	0 1	4,221	13 7	—	—	2,074	6 5
13	Medical ..	87	16 8	112	17 11	9,149	14 1	—	—	191	8 3
14	Hospitals ..	48	4 9	89	19 6	5,270	4 10	—	—	824	16 4
15	Education ..	614	1 6	38	9 3	6,944	13 9	—	—	313	19 6
16	Ecclesiastical ..	709	9 9	364	11 3	17,900	0 3	—	—	589	7 3
17	Board of Health ..	225	17 0	137	4 3	7,883	12 11	66	13 10	—	—
18	Registration ..	172	16 10	—	—	702	18 6	—	—	221	1 6
19	Public Market ..	133	11 2	5	0 0	4,791	12 0	1,082	15 7	—	—
20	Laboratory ..	—	—	24	13 4	84	12 15	—	—	—	—
21	Military ..	49	4 11	—	—	145	0 0	—	—	—	—
22	Miscellaneous ..	227	18 8	80	17 3	1,581	10 5	—	—	419	17 3
23	Post Office ..	93	1 2	67	10 3	4,903	4 3	320	17 4	359	17 0 4
24	Telephones ..	—	—	—	—	3,685	7 6 4	—	—	111	17 8
25	Electric Lighting ..	—	—	—	—	1,411	13 9	—	—	—	—
26	Public Works Department ..	—	—	—	—	1,813	16 1	212	9 4	—	—
27	Recurrent ..	14	0 0	—	—	2,026	5 5	157	7 3	—	—
28	Extraordinary ..	478	18 4	60	6 0	311	11 9	81	14 1	—	—
29	Local Department of Agriculture ..	—	—	41	4 10	2,791	8 8	—	—	—	—
30	Repayment of Loans ..	53	19 9	34	0 10	9,660	4 6	—	—	7,940	14 11
	Forestry Department ..	—	—	—	—	10,923	3 3	—	—	—	—
	from Loan ..	—	—	—	—	2,852	8 3	—	—	—	—
	Total ..	6,577	13 9	2,511	19 4	1,221	11 6 4	4,862	1 2	3,121	0 0
										35	7 2

TABLE III.—GENERAL GOVERNMENT OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS.
Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1937.

Liabilities.	£ s. d.	—	Assets.	£ s. d.	—
Dominica	536 18 1		Cash	610 19 0	£ s. d.
St. Kittis-Nevis	549 17 5		Crown Agents' Account	87 18 11	
Imperial Government	241 12 3				698 17 11
Canada Money Order Account			Antigua	150 18 1	
Land Assurance Deposit Account			Montserrat	77 15 5	
			Virgin Islands	37 15 3	
			Bermuda Money Order Account	8 2	266 8 9
			Jamaica	10 16 0	
			H. A. Tempany	6 7	11 4 2
			W. D. Auchinleck	3 15 0	
			Private Secretary	6 3 0	
			E. A. Foster... ..	222 9 7	
			P. O. Guarantee Fund	6 10 11	
			Police Reward Fund	20 11 10	
			G. M. Martin	12 8	
			E. B. Jarvis... ..	15 0 0	275 9 7
			Agricultural Department Suspense Account	2 0 0	
			General Account	241 12 3	
			Land Assurance Investment Account		243 12 3
			Drafts and Remittances		2,400 0 0
					505 10 0
					£4,401 2 8

Antigua—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1907.

Liabilities.		Amount.		Assets.		Amount.	
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
Deposits on Account, Money Orders	Botanic Station Account, Seeds.	230	15 1	Advances on Account, Money Orders	City Board Account, Body Ponds.	823	12 3
"	"	16	9 9½	"	"	56	5 0
"	"	15	9 0	"	"	731	2 1
"	"	2,239	9 1	"	"	26	14 0
"	"	9	4 7	"	"	12	0 5
"	"	47	1 8	"	"	8	17 3
"	"	26	6 1	"	"	424	18 4
"	"	27	9 9	"	"	25	0 0
"	"	302	14 3	"	"	243	11 6
"	"	16	10 1	"	"	167	5 6
"	"	1	16 5	"	"	94	10 1
"	"	0	6 1	"	"	185	8 2
"	"	150	18 1	"	"	3362	2 2½
"	"	1	0 1	"	"	467	15 0
"	"	525	0 0	"	"	1,500	0 0
Deposits on Account, Official Receiver Globe Premises.	Montserrat	1	13 3	"	"		
"	"	0	0 2	"	"		
"	"	53	3 4	"	"		
"	"	251	19 7	"	"		
"	"	106	19 2½	"	"		

Antigua—Statement of Assets and Liabilities—cont.

Liabilities.	Amount.	Assets.	Amount.
Deposits on Account, Registrar's unclaimed Balances.	£ s. d. 13 10 7		£ s. d.
" " Loan Works Account,	185 8 2		
" " Wallings, Unrepresented Estates Reserve Fund.	38 0 7		
" " U.K. Post Office Account...	135 15 1		
" " Selection of Cotton Seed ...	58 4 9		
" " Drafts and Remittances ...	27 0 0		
" " Botanic Department ...	44 9 1		
" " Stud Farm Fees ...	10 4 8		
Excess of Assets	4,586 18 6		
	3,542 3 9½		
	8,129 2 3½		8,129 2 3½

St. Kitts-Nevis—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1907.

Liabilities.	Amount.	Assets.	Amount.
Deposits—	£ s. d.	Cash—	£ s. d.
To secure Duties ...	98 2 3	Treasurer's ...	440 16 4
Revenue Defence Fund ...	154 11 1	Revenue Officer, Nevis ...	121 12 1
Provost Marshal ...	9 4 2	Magistrate, Anguilla... ..	11 17 6

LEEWARD ISLANDS, 1906-7.

Peasants' Cane—Nevis	...	56	5	0
Unrepresented Estates	...	453	16	11
" Reserve Fund	...	1	0	9
Prison Officers' Fine Fund	...	2	1	8
Registrar of Courts	...	27	5	2
Postal Orders	...	0	11	8
Government of Jamaica	...	6	0	0
Money Order Accounts—				
United Kingdom	...	69	4	2
Barbados	...	14	8	11
Trinidad	...	57	16	4
Jamaica	...	19	2	11
Balance due to—				
Family Remittances	...	...	...	...
Presidencies	...	...	...	...
Total Liabilities	...	...	...	...
Excess of Assets	...	...	...	...
		1,250	2	4
		12,577	18	11
		13,828	1	3
Crown Agents	...	...	...	...
Deposit at Interest in Colonial Bank	...	...	...	...
Advances—				
Crown Agents(at Interest)	...	...	...	...
Cotton Loans of 1906	...	...	...	...
Cotton Growers, 1905 (L. I.)	...	...	...	...
Personal	...	...	...	...
G. P. O., London	...	...	...	...
Government of British Guiana	...	...	...	...
General Government, Leeward Islands.	...	...	...	...
Presidencies	...	...	...	...
Money Order Accounts—				
Leeward Islands	...	...	...	...
Windward Islands	...	...	...	...
British Guiana	...	...	...	...
Bermuda	...	...	...	...
United States...	...	...	...	...
Canada...	...	...	...	...
Worn Coin in Transit	...	...	...	...
		8	6	8
		272	4	8
		160	12	4
		808	18	8
		1,156	6	5
		7,000	0	0
		1,000	0	0
		1,455	5	0
		980	14	10
		70	5	10
		45	6	6
		7	18	11
		549	17	5
		46	13	7
		720	2	3
		936	7	2
		4	8	6
		13,828	1	3
		13,828	1	3

Montserrat—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1907.

Liabilities.	Amount.		Assets.	Amount.	
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Botanical Department— Advance Account	...	...	Advances— Botanical Department	45	13 10
Deposits— Provost Marshal	3	10 7	pense Account,	550	0 0
Escheated Estates	9	13 6	Medical Officer, District No. 1	3	12 9
Unrepresented Estates	3	17 9	S. L. Athill	0	1 3
To secure Duties	5	1 4	Medical Officer, District No. 2	2	17 4
Pound Fees	0	0 6	United Kingdom Post Office Account	67	16 7
Savings Bank	3	17 11	Under Cotton Industry Aid Act	138	0 0
Botanical Department	30	15 11	Colony of Trinidad	10	15 4
Commissioner	12	6 7	Schooner "Viola" of Barbados	1	14 4
General Government	...	69 4 1	Crown Agents— Advanced at Interest	820	11 5
Presidency of Dominica	...	77 15 6	Current Account	700	0 0
Money Orders— United Kingdom	...	27 9 1	Cash	1,133	16 0
Canada	23	16 0	Presidency of Antigua	190	15 9½
Bermuda	380	1 2	" St. Kitts-Nevis	1	0 1
Jamaica	6	12 0	Drafts and Remittances	28	13 2
Leeward Islands	4	16 6	Money Orders— United States	294	1 1
...	22	2 0	"	275	17 3
Excess of Assets	...	627 14 3	British Guiana	3	3 8
		2,980 12 0½	Trinidad	45	9 2
				30	19 3

Montserrat—Statement of Assets and Liabilities—cont.

Liabilities.	Amount.		Assets.	Amount.	
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
			Money Orders—cont.		
			Barbados	42	12 9
			Windward Islands	41	6 8
				439	8 9
				£3,608	6 3½

Virgin Islands—Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st March, 1907.

Liabilities.	Amount.		Assets.	Amount.	
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Advances—					
General Government	...		Deposits—		
Antigua	...	87 15 3	Cotton Account	...	131 16 2
St. Kitts-Nevis	...	94 10 1	Crown Agents Investment Account	...	500 0 0
Dominica	...	38 14 7			
H.M. Postmaster-General	...	32 8 8	Colonial Bank—		
	...	4 15 1	Antigua...	...	300 0 0
	...		St. Thomas	...	0 9 4
	...		Crown Agents' Current Account	...	2 9 4
Agricultural Department	...		Treasurer	...	2 11 1
				305	9 9

	10 10 7	10 13 10
Deposits—		
Unrepresented Estates Account ...	8 0 9	
Unrepresented Reserve Fund Account.	1 4 11	
Provost Marshal's Account ...	12 3 5	
Agricultural Department Produce Account.	2 8 3	
Prize Money Account ...	0 8 0	
Agricultural Show Account ...	6 0 0	
To secure Duties ...	0 13 3	
Postmaster's Stamp Account ...	32 9 2	
Drafts and Remittances Account ...	109 4 2	
Sundry Money Order Accounts ...	77 13 3	
Excess of Assets ...	451 13 7	
	<u>£947 19 9</u>	<u>£947 19 9</u>

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

TABLE IV
Principal Exports.

Articles of Export.	1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.		Increase 1906 over 1905.		Decrease 1906 under 1905.	
	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £
Sugar ... Tons	80,339	176,691	25,020	170,695	24,667	211,026	20,414	191,771	25,571	176,201	5,157	—	—	12,570
Molasses Puns.	10,891	12,383	9,501	32,447	8,133	17,806	7,223	28,063	7,431	17,711	208	—	—	19,852
Rum ... Galls.	82,296	2,774	16,435	611	20,523	764	26,654	1,345	17,014	841	—	—	9,640	504
Coffee .. Lbs.	4,404	106	3,659	92	1,298	23	2,003	50	2,174	53	171	8	—	—
Cocoa ... Lbs.	1,332,024	28,442	970,732	20,730	1,087,751	20,980	1,299,579	25,056	1,263,350	34,866	36,229	9,310	—	—
Limes and Lime Juice.	—	47,824	—	24,608	—	85,943	—	44,557	—	59,127	—	14,570	—	—
Total ...	—	268,220	—	249,133	—	286,547	—	290,842	—	291,799	—	24,383	—	23,426

TABLE V.
Summary showing Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.

	British.					Foreign.						
	Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.		Steam Vessels.			Sailing Vessels.			
	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.	Entered.	Cleared.	Total.
Antigua ...	259,103	257,327	516,430	5,502	5,471	10,973	—	—	—	5,882	5,850	11,732
St. Kitts ...	250,768	250,768	501,536	4,211	4,539	8,750	15,864	15,864	31,728	6,296	6,278	12,574
Nevis ...	29,886	29,886	59,772	300	334	634	—	—	—	364	382	746
Anguilla ...	—	—	—	4,708	4,155	8,863	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dominica ...	232,927	232,927	465,854	5,166	4,997	10,163	176	176	352	2,650	2,650	5,300
Montserrat ...	149,592	147,637	297,229	4,894	4,813	9,707	—	—	—	1,132	1,179	2,311
Virgin Islands ...	—	—	—	5,154	6,258	11,412	—	—	—	587	600	1,187
Total ...	922,276	918,545	1,840,821	29,935	30,567	60,502	16,040	16,040	32,080	16,911	16,939	33,850

D

TABLE VI.
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR POSTAL SERVICES FOR
THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

Receipts.

Year.	Sale of Stamps, &c.	Commission on Money Orders.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1902	5,255	406	48	5,779
1903	7,196	515	51	7,762
1904	5,362	516	47	5,925
1905	5,862	448	42	6,352
1906	4,870	447	56	5,373

Expenditure.

Year.	Salaries, &c.	Conveyance of Mails.	Total.
	£	£	£
1902	2,672	2,734	5,406
1903	4,093	2,742	6,835
1904	2,669	2,311	4,980
1905	2,514	1,319	3,833
1906	2,773	612	3,385

TABLE VII.

The following table gives the Statistics for the various Hospitals of the Colony :—

Hospitals.	Number in Hospital on 1st January, 1906.	Admissions.	Discharged.			Deaths.
			Cured.	Relieved.	Not Improved.	
Antigua	173	1,303	653	392	7	258
Cunningham (St. Kitts)	96	993	604	162	122	104
Nevis	37	135	—	129	—	14
Dominica	66	528	445	39	6	43
Montserrat	4	40	15	15	4	6

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
506	Mauritius	1905
507	Southern Nigeria (Lagos)	"
508	Somaliland	1905-1906
509	Fiji	1905
510	St. Vincent	1905-1906
511	Sierra Leone	1905
512	Southern Nigeria	"
513	Basutoland	1905-1906
514	British Guiana	"
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905-1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"
524	Jamaica	1905-1906
525	Uganda	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda... ..	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906-1907
533	Wei-hai-wei	1906
534	Gold Coast	"
535	Malta	1906-1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906-1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis ...	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904-5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica... ..	Cayman Islands
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate ...	Report on Kenia Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1905-6.

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1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 571.

MALTA.

REPORT FOR 1907-8.

(For Report for 1906-7, see No. 535.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
August, 1908.



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1908.

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No. 571.

MALTA.

(For Report for 1906-7 *see* No. 535.)

THE GOVERNOR to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Palace,

Valletta,

7th July, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying report, which has been prepared by the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government, in anticipation of the publication of the Malta Blue Book for the year 1907-8.

I have, &c.,

H. F. GRANT,

Governor.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE MALTA BLUE BOOK FOR THE
YEAR, 1907-8.

Lieutenant-Governor's Office,
Malta.

26th June, 1908.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the Blue Book for the year 1907-8 :—

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

1. The revenue for the year 1907-8 was £438,348, and the expenditure £454,669, showing an excess of expenditure over revenue of £16,321. As the surplus brought forward from the previous year was £140,784, the net surplus remaining at the close of the financial year was £124,463.

Revenue, Estimated and Actual.

2. The estimated revenue for the year under review was £449,256, and the actual revenue £438,348; the receipts, therefore, fell short of the estimate by £10,908.

There were excesses under five heads, viz., Licences, Court Fines, &c., Stamp Duties, Fees of Court, Miscellaneous Receipts, and Land Sales, amounting to £2,412, and deficits under the remaining heads amounting to £13,320, the net deficit being as stated above.

3. The only important excesses were under Stamp Duties (£466) and Fees of Court (£1,372); for the former excess no special reason can be given, while the excess under Fees of Court is attributable mainly to an unforeseen increase in the number of acts filed, and in the amount of fees levied in the higher Courts.

4. The heads of revenue which show considerable deficits are the following: (a) Customs (£3,012), (b) Post Office (£2,272), (c) Water Service (£2,522), (d) Rents (£2,508), and (e) Interest (£1,180).

The reason, in each case, why the estimate was not realised is given below :—

- (a) Unforeseen decrease in the importation of flour, beer, spirits, petroleum, tobacco, and other dutiable articles, due to the causes indicated in paragraph 29 of this report.
- (b) Falling-off in the sale of stamps due mainly to a reduction in the rate of postage for letters, and a shrinkage in the business of the Parcel Post Branch, the reason for which is given in paragraph 152 of this report.
- (c) Decrease in the consumption of water at the Breakwater Works.
- (d) A considerable amount of rents were not collected within the year.
- (e) Withdrawal of the amount placed on fixed deposit in the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, on which interest was paid by the bank, and withdrawals of deposits from the Savings Bank, which had to be met by the sale of Government securities.

Revenue for 1906-7 and 1907-8 compared.

5. The revenue for 1907-8 fell short of that of the previous year by £75,246. This large shrinkage in revenue is, however, to a great extent only apparent, as in 1906-7 the balances standing to the credit of the Immovable Property Account and other funds, amounting in the aggregate to £61,311, were transferred to revenue. The actual falling-off in the revenue from ordinary sources is, therefore, only £13,935.

Increases.

6. The most important increases were under Fees of Court (£1,106) and Interest (£1,567). The reason for the increase under the former head is given in paragraph 3, and the increase under Interest is accounted for by an expansion in the profit of the Savings Bank, which is apparent rather than real. Formerly, the Savings Bank was credited with interest at the rate of only $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on its investments, while now the full rate of interest received by the Government is credited to the Bank. This makes the profit of the Savings Bank appear larger, but the amount paid in interest under head I. on the expenditure side is also larger, and the net result is the same as before.

Decreases.

7. The principal decreases are under (a) Customs and Port Department (£11,004), (b) Fees of Office and Reimbursements (£1,824), (c) Water Supply (£1,143), (d) Electric Lighting (£1,347), (e) Rents (£1,016), (f) Miscellaneous Receipts

£11,691), and (g) Land Sales (£50,268). They are due, principally, to the following causes :—

- (a) More wheat and less flour was imported than in 1906-7; there was an increase in the output of wine made in Malta, and of beer brewed locally; there was also a falling-off in the importation of petroleum, tobacco, and other dutiable articles.
- (b) A falling-off in the amount of fees paid for the slaughter of cattle at the abattoir, and a decrease in the number of paying patients treated in the hospitals; a portion of the military contribution towards the maintenance of the drainage system, for the year 1905-6, was paid in 1906-7, while the contribution paid by the War Department in 1907-8 in respect of this service was less than formerly, owing to the abolition of the Drainage Maintenance Sinking Fund. A contribution was also received in 1906-7 towards the upkeep of certain roads used by the military authorities.
- (c) Less water was consumed on the naval works in progress, which are now approaching completion, while the amount due to the local Government for water supplied to the War Department during January, February, and March, 1908, had not been paid at the close of the financial year.
- (d) Less current was required for street-lighting owing to the adoption of an improved type of glow lamp which consumes 28 per cent. less current than other lamps.
- (e) Rents remained unpaid.
- (f) Transfer to revenue in 1906-7 of the Railway and Electric Lighting Reserve Funds, the Electric Lighting Renewal and Extension Fund, and the Drainage Tools Sinking Fund.
- (g) Transfer to revenue, in 1906-7, of the amount standing to the credit of the Immovable Property Account.

Revenue for the last Five Years.

8. The following table gives the revenue collected during the last five years :—

Year.				Revenue.	Increase.	Decrease.
				£	£	£
1903-4	...	...	...	464,591	—	—
1904-5	...	...	...	467,835	3,244	—
1905-6	...	...	...	467,240	—	595
1906-7	...	...	...	513,594	46,354(a)	—
1907-8	...	...	...	438,348	—	75,346(a)

(a) See paragraph 5.

MALTA, 1907-8.

Expenditure.

9. The total expenditure for 1907-8 amounted to £454,669, and was made up as follows :—

Establishments :—				£	£
Personal emoluments	...	...		164,851	
Other charges	...	...	...	126,064	
					290,915
* Interest, pensions, military expenditure, and miscellaneous services	...	...	...		78,316
Public works (including special expenditure)	...				95,438
Total				...	£464,669

Expenditure, Estimated and Actual.

10. The actual expenditure fell short of the estimate by £33,528, and exceeded the expenditure of the previous year by £7,820.

11. The only excess of any importance was under Charitable Institutions, £811, due mainly to the fact that, although the total number of persons relieved or maintained in 1907-8 was less than in the previous year, there was an increase of 64 in the daily average number of inmates in the Malta institutions, the reason being that in a good many cases the duration of the treatment was above the average. There was also an unforeseen rise in the cost of provisions.

12. The principal savings were under :—				£
(a) Customs and Port Department	...	...	...	813
(b) Railway Department	...	...	...	1,680
(c) Police	...	...	...	2,848
(d) Public Health Department	...	...	...	855
(e) Public Instruction	...	...	...	1,302
(f) Special Expenditure	...	...	...	6,622
(g) Miscellaneous Services	...	...	...	5,580
(h) Public Works Department	...	...	...	1,980
(i) Water Works and Electric Lighting Department	...	...	...	1,210
(j) Public Works	...	...	...	9,197

The amounts shown at (f) and (j) have not, however, been entirely saved, as £3,820 has been re-voted, under "Public Works," since the closing of the financial year.

Expenditure for 1906-7 and 1907-8 compared.

13. The expenditure in 1907-8 was £454,669, as compared with £446,849 in the previous year, showing an increase of £7,820 in the year under review.

Increases.

14. The principal increases were under the following heads:—

“Charges on account of interest and burthens,” £3,815—due mainly to payment to the savings bank of the full amount of interest received on investments, as explained in paragraph 6, and to the payment of interest on funds invested in the “Massa Frumentaria,” which was not claimed in the previous year.

“Customs and Port Department,” £16,095. This increase is partly apparent, the expenditure of the Marine Police having been transferred to this head from head XIII., Police. The increase is also partly due to two non-recurring services paid for during the year, viz., the purchase of a boiler (£549), and of the lanterns for the lighthouses to be erected on the arms of the breakwater (£623).

“Charitable Institutions,” £3,578—due to periodical and other increments of salaries, to an unforeseen rise in the contract prices of provisions, &c.; to an increase in the expenditure on transport, drugs, &c.; to an increase in the number of children given out to nurse; and to an increase in the expenditure on the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Malta, owing to an outbreak of small-pox.

Decreases.

15. The principal decreases were under the following heads:—

“Railway Department,” £1,686—due to the fact that interest on the capital outlay (which has now been discontinued) was paid during the first six months of the previous year, and that the expenditure on the permanent way and on rolling stock was less than in 1906-7.

“Police,” £15,230—due mainly to the transfer of the Marine Police Branch to head VII., already referred to above.

“Special Expenditure,” £5,838—due to non-completion of certain works, and to a decline in the market value of labour.

Public Works.

16. The expenditure on public works was as follows:—

	£
(a) Annually Recurrent Expenditure	51,581
(b) Special Services (including re-votes)	13,995
(c) Special Expenditure	29,778
	£95,354

(B.) CHANGES IN TAXATION.

17. There were no changes in taxation during the year.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

18. The assets and liabilities of the Government on the 31st March, 1908, as compared with those of 1906-7, were as follows :—

Year.				Assets.	Liabilities.	Surplus.
				£	£	£
1906-7	...	...	...	855,217	714,433	140,784
1907-8	...	...	...	801,035	676,572	124,463
Decrease				50,182	37,861	16,321

The decrease in the assets is due chiefly to withdrawals from the Treasury to meet repayments of deposits in the Savings Bank, and to withdrawals of Court deposits; and the decrease in the liabilities is attributable to withdrawals of Savings Bank and Court deposits, while the decrease in the surplus is due to the excess of expenditure over revenue referred to in paragraph 1.

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

19. Strictly speaking, there is no public debt in Malta. Interest at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. is, however, paid by the Treasury on funds invested in the Massa Frumentaria. The amount of interest paid in 1907-8 was £2,008, as compared with £1,782 in 1906-7, the increase being due to the payment during the year of interest which remained unclaimed in previous years.

(E.) CURRENCY.

20. Roughly calculated, the total amount of British coin in circulation on the 31st March, 1908, was £420,000, made up of £375,000 in sovereigns, £15,000 in half-sovereigns, and £30,000 in silver and bronze.

Note Circulation.

21. The amount of notes put in circulation by the local banks is not known, no statutory control being exercised on banking establishments in Malta.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

22. The total value of the dutiable goods imported during the past two years was as follows :

					£
1906-7	...	...	...	...	7,096,800
1907-8	...	...	...	...	6,983,589
				Decrease	... £113,211

23. The values of goods imported for local consumption, and of goods re-exported in the same bottoms, were as follows :—

—	1906-7.	1907-8.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Imported for local consumption.	1,219,819	1,236,530	16,711	—
Re-exported in same bottoms	5,876,981	5,747,059	—	129,922
Total... ..	7,096,800	6,983,589	16,711	129,922

24. The principal decreases were in wheat, barley, saggina, cotton-oil, potatoes, pulse, seeds, wine, and petroleum.

25. The following table gives the values of the imports in each of the five years preceding 1907-8, and the average value for that period compared with that of the imports in the year under review :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	H.M. Ships.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1902-3	268,040	297,583	536	5,996,369	6,562,798
1903-4	292,483	355,293	457	6,509,846	7,158,079
1904-5	251,024	2,478,761	957	7,005,117	9,735,859
1905-6	221,988	977,238	726	7,188,540	8,388,492
1906-7	218,461	385,961	249	6,492,129	7,096,800
Average of 5 years	250,399	899,021	585	6,638,400	7,788,406
1907-8	269,243	624,776	382	6,089,188	6,983,589
Above Average ...	18,844	—	—	—	—
Below Average ...	—	274,245	203	549,212	804,817

The principal imports from the United Kingdom were :—

Beer, £75,757 ; manufactured grain, £96,212 ; cotton-seed oil, £6,446 ; potatoes, £23,713 ; spirits, £20,366 ; superior wines, £3,445 ; sugar, £14,800 ; and tobacco, £24,190.

From British Possessions :—

Frozen and preserved beef and mutton, £22,087 ; wheat, £550,922, and barley, £51,600.

From foreign countries :—

Bullocks, £153,183 ; horses, £5,030 ; mules, £1,860 ; wheat, £4,409,599 ; Indian corn, £329,166 ; barley, £477,501 ; saggina, £13,193, inferior grain, £125,041 ; manufactured grain, £59,359 ; olive oil, £53,628 ; cotton-seed oil, £11,467 ; potatoes, £5,965 ; pulse, £95,912 ; seeds, £32,058 ; spirits, £10,136 ; wine, £95,586 ; petroleum, £40,084 ; sugar, £136,192 ; and tobacco, £29,205.

Imports for Local Consumption.

26. The total value of goods imported for local consumption in 1907-8 was £1,236,530, made up as follows :—

	£
Imported from the United Kingdom	269,243
Imported from British possessions	22,362
Imported from foreign countries... ..	944,543
Landed from His Majesty's ships	382
Total	£1,236,530

27. The following table shows the dutiable articles imported for local consumption in 1907-8, and the amount of duty collected on each article, as compared with the amount received in the previous year :—

—	1906-7.	1907-8.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Barley	548	319	—	229
Beer	25,244	24,601	—	643
Bullocks	12,423	12,831	408	—
Horses	364	359	—	5
Imported meat	3,578	3,601	23	—
Indian corn	62	42	—	20
Inferior grain	35	48	13	—
Malt	203	273	70	—
Manufactured grain	38,755	34,379	—	4,376
Mules	166	134	—	32
Oil	3,096	2,921	—	175
Carried forward ...	84,474	79,508	514	5,480

	1906-7.	1907-8.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	84,474	79,508	514	5,480
Petroleum	6,917	5,807	—	1,110
Potatoes	3,109	2,338	—	771
Pulse	5,841	4,858	—	983
Refuse grain	6	3	—	3
Refuse manufactured grain	41	27	—	14
Saggina	2,944	2,312	—	187
Seeds	2,470	1,965	—	505
Sheep	97	84	—	13
Spirits	32,098	31,084	—	1,014
Sugar	5,999	6,062	63	—
Tobacco	12,376	11,672	—	704
Vinegar	112	106	—	6
Wheat	53,042	55,086	2,044	—
Wine... ..	48,911	46,076	—	2,835
Total	257,992	246,988	2,621	13,625

Causes of Increases and Decreases.

28. The only increases of any importance were the following :—

Bullocks (£408), due to the fact that, owing to a rise in the price of foodstuffs, animals imported were slaughtered without being fattened in Malta, and there was consequently an increase in the number imported.

Wheat (£2,044), attributable to high prices of flour ruling abroad, owing to which less flour and more wheat was imported than in the previous year.

29. The principal decreases were the following :—

Beer (£643), due mainly to increased consumption of beer brewed locally, which caused a corresponding increase in the importation of malt. It is also possible that less liquor is being consumed by the working classes than was the case during the prosperous years, when the demand for labour was greater than the supply.

Manufactured grain (£4,376); this is partly compensated by the increase under wheat, referred to above.

Exports.

30. The total value of dutiable goods exported in the past two years (exclusive of local produce) was as follows :—

	£
1906-7	6,250,787
1907-8	5,913,538
Decrease	<u>£337,249</u>

31. The following table gives the exports for the past five years :—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Possessions.	H.M. Ships.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£
1903-4	2,259,810	508,164	18,990	3,358,919	6,145,883
1904-5	3,240,400	534,015	18,932	4,650,677	8,444,024
1905-6	2,314,079	221,924	15,209	4,605,636	7,156,848
1906-7	1,743,241	324,677	11,313	4,171,556	6,250,787
1907-8	1,484,456	250,263	17,387	4,161,432	5,913,538

32. The principal exports to the United Kingdom were :—

Wheat, £1,218,399; barley, £141,687; inferior grain, £48,206; and Indian corn, £75,326, all of which proceeded in the same bottoms.

To British Possessions :—

Wheat, £150,142; Indian corn, £58,148; barley, £41,466.

These goods also proceeded in the same bottoms.

To foreign countries :—

Wheat, £3,415,425; Indian corn, £191,664; barley, £341,514; inferior grain, £7,112; pulse, £5,733; olive oil, £20,836; potatoes, £1,053; spirits, £3,337; wine, £4,365; sugar, £77,528; and tobacco, £12,449.

Most of the wheat, Indian corn, barley, inferior grain, and pulse proceeded in the same bottoms.

Local Produce.

33. The exports of local produce in the past two years, as reported by shipping agents, were as follows :—

—				1906-7.		1907-8.	
				Cantars.	Cwts.	Cantars.	Cwts.
Cheese...	...	...	...	834 =	1,303	1,224 =	1,913
Potatoes	...	...	...	155,066 =	242,197	184,512 =	288,300
Cummin-seed	...	...	...	929 =	1,295	2,568 =	4,013
Vegetables	...	...	...	9,865 =	15,414	13,869 =	21,670
Onions...	...	...	...	6,015 =	9,398	9,532 =	14,894
				Dozen.		Dozen.	
Oranges	...	...	...	44,000		35,500	
				Number.		Number.	
Goats and sheep	...	...	...	764		778	
				Cantars.	Cwts.	Cantars.	Cwts.
Cotton	...	...	...	372 =	581	465 =	727

—				1906-7.	1907-8.
Cotton goods	...	{		Canne.* 450	Canne.* 350
				Bales. 258	Bales. 304
Stone ...	...	{		Tons in bulk. 1,100	Tons in bulk. 800
				Slabs and blocks. 49,213	Slabs and blocks. 57,292

* 1 Canna (or Cane) = 6 feet 10½ inches.

(B.) FISHERIES.

34. It is estimated that the large fish caught in Maltese waters (viz., tunny, white tunny, sword-fish, dolphin, bonitoes, &c.) amounted to 634 cantars, or about 49 tons, and that about the same quantity was imported from abroad during the year.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES, &C.

Area of Land under Cultivation.

35. The number of acres of land under cultivation in the two islands was 40,983, while the area of uncultivated land at the end of 1907-8 was estimated at 4,854 acres, against 4,863 acres in the previous year.

Number of Holdings.

36. The number of agricultural holdings was practically the same as in 1906-7, viz., about 10,000, with an average acreage of four acres per holding.

Crops.

37. Wheat, barley, and "Mischiato" (a mixture of both) were grown on 13,478 acres, as against 13,513 acres in 1906-7.

38. The total yield of cereals in the past two years was as follows:—

Year.				Wheat.	Barley.	Mischiato.	Total.
				Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
1906-7	...	...		20,288	8,963	6,137	35,388
1907-8	...	...		20,501	8,785	7,321	36,607
Total	...			40,789	17,748	13,458	71,995

Beans and other Pulse.

39. Beans and other pulse were grown on 1,954 acres, as against 1,816 acres in 1906-7, an advance of 138 acres.

Potatoes.

40. Potatoes were planted on 3,860 acres, as against 3,890 acres in the previous year, and, climatic conditions having been unusually favourable, the total yield of the spring and winter crops was 424,720 cwts., as compared with 202,200 cwts. in 1906-7, an advance of over 100 per cent. This year's crop was, therefore, extraordinarily abundant, and the best on record in the past 20 years.

41. There was a decrease of 8,886 cwts. in the importation of potatoes in the year under review. The quantity imported was 87,664 cwts., of which 63,792 cwts. were used as seed, 14,200 cwts. were consumed locally, and 9,672 cwts. were re-exported. Of the potatoes that were used as seed, 57,534 cwts. were imported from the United Kingdom, 5,106 cwts. from Austria, and 1,152 cwts. from Italy, France, and other countries.

Onions.

42. Onions were planted on 665 acres, as against 582 acres in 1906-7, and the total yield for the year is estimated at 2,043 tons, against 2,156 tons in 1906-7.

Cummin Seed.

43. The area planted with cummin seed was 1,323 acres, and the produce obtained 2,375 cwts., as against 1,367 acres and 2,597 cwts. respectively in the previous year.

Oranges and other Fruit.

44. The total quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarines gathered is estimated at 194,648 dozen, against 198,396 dozen in the previous year.

Cotton.

45. The acreage of land under cotton shows a slight increase, the figures for the past two years being 670 acres (with a produce of 166,534 lbs. of lint) in 1906-7, as compared with 871 acres (with a produce of 211,523 lbs. of lint) in the year under review. 116,079 lbs. of lint (valued at £2,628) were exported, of which 111,655 lbs. were sent to the United Kingdom, and 4,424 lbs. to other countries. The average yield was 245 lbs. per acre, and the average price obtained varied from 5½d. to 7d. per lb., which is not sufficient to induce any extensive cultivation of cotton in these islands.

Forage.

46. The aggregate acreage of land under clover, barley (cut in the green stage), vetches, &c., was 11,790 acres, as against 12,097 acres in 1906-7, and the total yield for the year is

estimated at 425,356 loads of 10 bundles each, as against 489,894 loads in the previous year, showing a net decrease of 64,538 loads.

Live-Stock.

47. The live-stock in the colony during the past two years was as follows :—

				1906-7.	1907-8
Asses	...	...	...	3,905	3,764
Goats	...	...	...	19,231	20,920
Horned cattle	...	...	...	6,022	7,060
Horses	...	...	...	3,669	3,835
Mules	...	...	...	3,302	3,456
Pigs ..	...	...	...	5,132	5,724
Sheep	...	...	...	19,901	14,063
Total				61,162	58,822

Botanic Gardens.

48. The total expenditure on plants, seeds, manure, and garden requisites during the year was £151. A large number of orchids, representing rare and valuable specimens, were added to the collection of exotics kept in the greenhouse.

The autumn and spring Shows of the Malta Horticultural Society (which receives a subsidy of £30 per annum from the Government) were held in the Gardens.

Government Experimental Farm.

49. Various experiments were made during the year with wheat and potatoes grown from British and foreign seed, and with samples of asparagus, cabbages, lettuce, beans, carrots, parsley, radishes, and spinach, which were all subjected to scientific treatment. The results were satisfactory.

Seeds and roots of plants are distributed free of charge, and no pains are spared to induce growers to improve the quality of their products, and not to restrict their efforts to the cultivation of indigenous varieties. It must be confessed, however, that little progress has so far been made in this direction, as the native grower is conservative in his ideas, and slow to avail himself of the facilities that have been placed within his reach by the establishment of the experimental farm.

(D.) LAND GRANTS, &c.

50. 11,626 square canes of Crown lands (equal to 12·6 acres) were alienated during the year, at an average price of £53 per acre. (The square cane is equal to 47·26 square feet.)

51. The number of leases issued by the Government was 310.

(E.) SHIPPING.

52. The number and tonnage of the steamers and sailing vessels which entered and cleared during the past two years are as follows :—

Year.	Steamers.				Sailing vessels.				Total.	
	Entered.		Cleared.		Entered.		Cleared.			
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1906-7 ..	2,334	3,596,318	2,337	3,601,552	1,010	49,588	1,001	50,366	6,682	7,297,824
1907-8 ..	2,315	3,738,694	2,309	3,728,829	939	53,801	915	45,439	6,478	7,566,763
Increase	—	142,376	—	127,277	—	4,213	—	—	—	268,939
Decrease	19	—	28	—	71	—	86	4,927	204	—

*Nationality of Steamship Tonnage.**British Ships.*

53. The number of British ships which called at Malta during the year was 1,148, as against 1,187 in 1906-7; and their tonnage was 2,490,767, as against 2,430,588, giving a decrease of 39 in ships, and an increase of 60,179 in tonnage.

Foreign Ships.

54. The number of foreign ships was 1,167 (with a tonnage of 1,247,927), as against 1,147 ships (with a tonnage of 1,165,730). There was, therefore, an increase of 20 in foreign ships, and of 82,197 in tonnage.

55. The following table shows the nationality of foreign steamers which called at Malta during 1907-8 :—

	No. of ships.		Tonnage.	
Austrian	...	488	344,805	
Belgian	...	39	60,772	
Danish	...	6	5,713	
French	...	56	54,110	
German	...	257	391,767	
Greek	...	23	27,166	
Dutch	...	75	78,345	
Italian	...	192	254,915	
Norwegian... ..	...	12	17,796	
Russian	...	4	4,030	
Spanish	...	1	2,320	
Swedish	...	2	3,553	
Turkish	...	12	2,635	
Total	...	1,167	1,247,927	

56. The following table gives the tonnage of British and foreign shipping which entered and cleared with cargoes in 1907-8, as distinguished from vessels in ballast, compared with the figures for 1906-7 :—

	1906-7.			1907-8.		
	British.	Foreign.	Total.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
Entered ...	Tons. 2,383,097	Tons. 1,134,825	Tons. 3,517,922	Tons. 2,429,312	Tons. 1,180,397	Tons. 3,609,709
Cleared ...	2,260,151	1,102,941	3,363,092	2,321,660	1,063,521	3,385,181
Total ...	4,643,248	2,237,766	6,881,014	4,750,972	2,243,918	6,994,890

There was, therefore, an increase of 107,724 tons in British, and of 6,152 tons in foreign, shipping, making a total increase of 113,876 tons.

57. The total revenue collected by the Government from tonnage dues was £6,151, as against £6,243, showing a decrease of £92 in the year under review.

58. The total shipping entered and cleared for the last five years was as follows :—

Year.					Entered.		Cleared.	
					No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1903-4	...	...	...	...	3,625	3,594,274	3,607	3,590,994
1904-5	...	...	...	...	3,803	3,986,502	3,829	3,980,516
1905-6	...	...	...	...	3,524	3,718,168	3,511	3,718,349
1906-7	...	...	...	...	3,344	3,645,906	3,338	3,651,918
1907-8	...	...	...	...	3,254	3,792,495	3,224	3,774,268

III.—EDUCATION.

(A.) PRIMARY EDUCATION.

Elementary Schools.

Day Schools.

59. As in the previous year, the number of day-schools in Malta and Gozo in 1907-8 was 99, as shown below :—

—							Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Boys	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	9	38
Girls	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	9	39
Infants	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	7
Drawing (boys)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	—	5
" (girls)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	—	5
Wood-carving	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	4
Sunday school (Secular instruction)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Total							80	19	99

Night Schools.

60. The number of night-schools in 1907-8 was also the same as in the previous year, viz., 38 (33 in Malta and five in Gozo.)

School Accommodation.

61. The schools at Zeitun and Zabbar were completed in March last, but are not yet occupied, and a new wing to the Floriana School was completed and taken over in June, 1907, while satisfactory progress was made with the new school at Sliema.

62. The number of children of school age registered in the books as seeking admission on the 1st March, 1908, but who could not be admitted for want of accommodation, was 4,060; it is anticipated that 1,470 will be admitted by the end of June, leaving 2,590 children still unprovided for, as compared with 3,759 in the previous year.

Number of Admissions.

63. The number of children admitted to the day schools during the year was 6,799, and the number of those who left school was 5,256, as compared with 7,094 and 5,175 respectively in 1906-7, while the number of pupils admitted to the night schools was 2,734, as against 3,016 in the previous year.

64. Of the pupils who left school, 35 (17 boys and 18 girls) were appointed monitors and monitresses in the Government Elementary Schools; 22 passed into the Lyceum; 32 were successful at the competitive examinations held during the year for apprenticeships in H.M. Dockyard; 19 were admitted to the Archbishop's Seminary in Malta, and 8 to the Bishop's Seminary in Gozo, and 2 obtained employment in the Public Works Department.

65. The number who left school during the year before reaching Standard III. was 2,860, as against 2,808 in 1906-7.

Attendance.

66. The attendance in the day schools on the 1st September, 1907, was 18,166, as against 17,010 on the same date in the previous year.

67. The night schools were attended by 2,179 pupils at the beginning of the scholastic year (1st October, 1907), as against 2,127 on the corresponding date in 1906.

68. The total enrolment of pupils in the day and night schools at the beginning of the scholastic year was 19,905, as against 19,137 in 1906.

69. The average annual enrolment was 17,861, and the average annual attendance 14,705, as against 17,259 and 14,234 respectively in 1906-7.

70. The percentage of attendance to enrolment was 82·3, as against 82·5 in 1906-7.

71. The highest enrolment was 21,095, and the lowest 14,854, as against 20,503 and 14,208 in the previous year.

Selection of Language of Colloquial Instruction on Admission to Infant Schools, and in Standards I., II., and III.

72. Out of 5,744 parents or guardians who were invited to select the language of colloquial instruction for their children or wards, on their being admitted to the schools, or on their being promoted to Standards I. and II., 94·8 per cent. chose English, and 5·2 per cent. chose Italian, as against 93·6 per cent. for English, and 6·4 per cent. for Italian in 1906-7.

73. In the case of admissions or promotions to Standard III., out of 3,159 parents or guardians who selected the secondary language of instruction for their children or wards, 98·4 per cent. chose English, and 1·6 per cent. Italian, as compared with 97·8 per cent. for English, and 2·2 per cent. for Italian in the previous year.

Choice of Language of Examination in the Higher Standards.

74. The number of parents or guardians of pupils attending the higher standards who made a choice of the language in which they desired their children to be examined was 2,104, as against 1,988 in 1906-7. Of these, 1,494 or 71 per cent. selected English only, 588 or 28 per cent. chose English and Italian, and 22 or 1 per cent. selected Italian only. The corresponding percentages in the previous year were 68·6, 29·7, and 1·7 respectively.

Annual Examinations.

75. The number of pupils borne on the rolls was 14,838, as against 13,904 in 1906-7. The number individually examined was 14,006, of whom 11,588 or 82·7 per cent. obtained passes,

with an average percentage of 78·5 marks, as against 13,248 pupils examined in 1906-7, of whom 10,875 or 82·1 per cent. had passes with an average percentage of 75·9 marks.

Teachers.

76. The teaching staff was the same as in 1906-7, viz. :—

Head masters	...	...	...	...	...	40
Head mistresses	...	...	...	...	...	49
Assistant teachers (males)...	...	...	...	...	...	220
Monitors	...	...	...	...	...	30
Assistant teachers (females)	...	...	...	...	...	290
Monitresses	...	...	...	...	...	86
Teachers of drawing, dress-cutting, lace-making, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	10
Total						725

77. Two male students were sent to St. Mary's College, Hammersmith, for training. No female students were sent to England during the year. A satisfactory report was received on the first year's work of the female student who was sent to the Training College, St. Charles Square, London, in 1906-7.

78. Of the present staff, 19 masters and 20 mistresses were trained in England.

79. A special preparatory training class for young teachers desirous of proceeding to England for training, was again started in December last, and was attended by seven male and five female teachers.

Cost of Schools.

80. The total cost of the Elementary Schools was £26,375, as against £25,593 in 1906-7. Of the expenditure in 1907-8, £22,340 was for personal emoluments and £3,975 for other charges, as against £21,853 and £3,740, respectively, in the previous year.

Average Cost per Pupil.

81. The average cost per pupil, calculated on the number of pupils on the rolls at the beginning of the scholastic year, was 26s. 6d.; calculated on the average annual enrolment, 29s. 6d.; and calculated on the average annual attendance, 35s. 10½d., as against 26s. 9d., 29s. 8d., and 36s., respectively, in 1906-7.

(B.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Secondary School for Girls, Valletta.

82. The average daily attendance in this school to the end of the scholastic year (30th September, 1907) was 218, including 44 little boys, as against 207, including 42 boys, in 1905-6.

Secondary School for Boys, Gozo.

83. The average attendance was 56, as against 46 in the previous year, and the percentage of attendance was 92, as against 93 in 1905-6.

The Lyceum, Valletta.

84. The average number of students borne on the registers was 593, as against 621 in 1905-6, showing a decrease of 28, due to a falling off in the attendance in the classes for optional subjects.

85. The daily average attendance and the percentage of attendance were as follows :—

Scholastic Year.					
1905-6.			1906-7.		
Average No. of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.	Average No. of students on register.	Average daily attendance.	Average percentage of attendance.
621	503	81	593	500	84

86. The number of boys admitted in 1906-7 was 103, and the number of candidates 164, as against the same number of admissions, out of 201 candidates, in the previous year.

87. At the annual examinations held in July, 381 students were examined in English and 368 in Italian, and the number of passes in English was 345 or 91 per cent., and in Italian 278 or 77 per cent.

The University, Valletta.

88. The average number of students on the register of the University was 242, against 146 in the previous year, showing an increase of 96, due to the facts that a new academical course began in 1906-7, when the number of students was at a maximum, and that the students of engineering and architecture, formerly returned under the Lyceum, were transferred to the University.

Matriculation Examination.

89. Forty-four candidates entered for the Matriculation Examination held in 1907. Of these 26 were successful.

Average Cost per Student.

90. The average cost per student was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Secondary School (Girls)	2	5	8
„ „ (Boys)	6	8	4
Lyceum	6	0	6
University	20	4	2

91. The average fees paid by students in the different institutions are as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Secondary School (Girls)	1	9	3
„ „ (Boys)			Nil.
Lyceum	0	11	10
University	2	12	9

These figures show that secondary education is provided by the Government at a very moderate rate, especially in the University, in which the degrees of M.D. and LL.D. and other degrees may be obtained after a seven years' course at a total cost of about £16.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS, &C.

92. The total number of persons relieved or maintained in the charitable institutions of the two islands was 6,461, as against 6,509 in 1906-7. In addition to these 104,746 persons were attended by the District Medical Officers at the Government Dispensaries or at their own home, as against 97,604 in the previous year; and pecuniary assistance amounting to £3,930 was given to 2,761 persons, as against £3,440 given to 2,329 persons in 1906-7.

93. The total cost of the institutions (exclusive of works) was £66,660 as compared with £58,986 in the previous year.

Industrial School.

94. The number of boys kept at the Industrial School was 40; of these, 30 were maintained by the Government at a cost of 1s. per diem each, and 10 by the Salesian Society which is in charge of the Institution.

The total cost to the Government of the Industrial School (including salaries, maintenance of pupils, outfits, tools, &c.) was £837, as compared with £896 in 1906-7.

Subsidized Institutions.

95. The private institutions which received pecuniary assistance from the Government during the year were :—

The Crèche, the Casa di San Giuseppe at Hamrun, and the Convent of the Good Shepherd at Casal Balzan, and the average number of inmates in each was 115 children, 43 boys, and 122 orphan girls and penitent women, respectively.

(B.) SAVINGS BANK.

96. The number of depositors on the 31st March, 1908, was 8,135, and the amount standing to their credit was £540,401, of which £533,526 was invested in Imperial and other British securities.

97. The deposits made during the year amounted to £111,944, and the withdrawals to £150,198, as against £129,051 and £158,728, respectively, in 1906-7.

98. The expenses of management and the interest credited to depositors amounted to £9,966, while the revenue derived from interest and invested funds, unappropriated deposits, and sale of pass-books was £17,318, leaving a net profit of £7,352.

V.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

*(A.) POLICE.**Strength.*

99. The nominal strength of the force on the 31st March, 1908, was 33 officers and 430 non-commissioned officers and men, and the actual strength was 31 officers and 422 non-commissioned officers and men.

Liquor Traffic.

100. The number of new licences issued during the year was 166, as against 188 in the previous year, while 85 licences were surrendered, and four forfeited for breaches of the regulations.

101. The total amount collected by the Government in respect of licences for the sale of wines and spirits was £3,422, against £3,374 collected in 1906-7.

Firearms.

102. Two thousand four hundred and forty-two persons took out licences to carry firearms for sporting purposes, as compared with 2,361 in the previous year, and the fees levied amounted to £1,221, as against £1,181 in 1906-7.

Licensed Vehicles.

103. The total number of vehicles licensed by the police was 1,305, as against 1,278 in the previous year.

Aliens.

104. The number of security bonds signed under the Aliens Law was 127, against 265 in 1906-7, and the number of aliens expelled under that law was 14, as against 60 in the previous year.

(B.) PRISONS.

105. The total number of persons imprisoned in 1907-8 is given in the following table :—

—	Remain- ing on 1st April, 1907.	Ad- mitted during 1907-8.	Total.	Dis- charged.	Died.	Remain- ing on 31st March, 1908.
Malta—						
Criminal prisoners ...	150	5,572	5,722	5,522	2	198
Debtors	—	8	8	6	—	2
Gozo—						
Criminal prisoners ...	1	836	837	821	—	16
Debtors	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	151	6,416	6,567	6,349	2	216

106. The number of persons admitted during the year was 6,416, as against 5,556 in 1906-7, as shown below :—

—	1906-7.			1907-8.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Malta—						
From Local Courts ...	4,309	302	4,611	5,227	333	5,560
„ Courts Martial ...	31	—	31	19	—	19
„ Consular Courts ...	6	—	6	1	—	1
Gozo—						
From Local Courts ...	869	39	908	805	31	836
Total	5,215	341	5,556	6,052	364	6,416

Health of Prisoners.

107. The general health of the prisoners was good. The total number of admissions into hospital during the year was 24, and the daily average on the sick-list was 17·95, as against 30 and 18, respectively, 1906-7. There were two deaths, due to heart disease.

Discipline.

108. The number of prison offences was 513, as against 417 in 1906-7, and the punishments inflicted were as follows :—

	1906-7.	1907-8.
Admonition	145	202
Solitary confinement on ordinary diet	66	79
Do. do. on bread and water	197	217
Reduction in class... ..	8	14
Loss of good conduct stripes	1	—
Corporal punishment	—	1
Total	417	513

109. The increase in the number of prison offences is attributable to stricter enforcement of discipline, and to the fact that more prisoners were admitted than in 1906-7.

Employment.

110. As in previous years, the prisoners were employed as tailors, mat and broom makers, joiners, masons, painters, plasterers, shoemakers, stainers, tinmen, plumbers, and cooks, and in cultivating the prison lands, pumping water, and attending sick prisoners.

Revenue.

111. The receipts of the prisons were as follows :—

	£
Maintenance of Consular and Naval convicts ...	168
Sale of prison manufactures	160
Sale of produce of lands	133
Total	£461

Expenditure.

112. The total cost of the prisons for the year 1907-8 was £4,003, as compared with £3,827 in the previous year, distributed as follows :—

	£
Corradino prison	3,857
Gozo prison	146
Total	£4,003

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

113. Roughly classified, the offences reported to the police in the past two years were as follows :—

—	1906-7.	1907-8.	Increase.
Offences against the person	3,696	5,501	1,805
Offences against the good order of families.	111	122	11
Offences against property	1,559	2,266	707
Other offences	25,552	26,650	1,098
Total	30,918	34,539	3,621

114. The increase in the number of offences reported is probably due to greater vigilance on the part of the police, and to the fact that the force was practically up to strength in 1907-8, while there were a good many vacancies in the previous year.

115. The total number of offences dealt with by the Courts of Malta and Gozo was 23,239, made up as follows :—

—	Malta.	Gozo.	Total.
Crimes	599	84	683
Contraventions	20,104	2,452	22,556
Total	20,703	2,536	23,239

116. The number of offences not dealt with by the Courts was, therefore, 11,300, or about 32 per cent. of the total number reported.

117. The number of crimes the perpetrators of which were not discovered was 278, or 28 per cent. of the total number reported.

118. The total number of persons summoned before the magistrates was 23,239, as against 22,770 in 1906-7, an increase of 469. They were dealt with as follows :—

Summarily convicted	22,009
Committed for trial	148
Acquitted... ..	411
Discharged for want of evidence, or in default of prosecution	671
Total	23,239

The punishments inflicted on the persons who were summarily convicted, were as follows :—

Imprisoned	...	...	...	...	330
Fined	...	...	...	...	16,916
Fined and imprisoned	...	...	...	...	12
Bound over	...	...	...	...	72
Admonished	...	...	...	...	4,679
Total	...	...	...	...	22,009

119. The number of persons admonished was 21 per cent., as against 16·5 per cent. in the previous year.

120. There were three cases of alleged wilful homicide, in one of which the jury returned a verdict of "Not guilty," on the ground that the accused had acted under great provocation. The other two are still awaiting trial.

Superior Courts.

121. The total number of persons tried by the Criminal Court during the year was 148, as against 125 in 1906-7, and the results were as stated below :—

	1906-7.	1907-8.
Convicted	82	98
Acquitted	43	50
Total	125	148

122. The crimes of the persons convicted were as follows :—

Wilful homicide (not amounting to murder)	...	2
Manslaughter	...	1
Attempted murder	...	3
Offences against the person...	...	36
Offences against property	...	27
Offences against the good order of families	...	13
False evidence	...	1
Miscellaneous offences	...	15
Total	...	98

123. Of the 1,586 cases instituted in the Civil Court, First Hall, 714 were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and 872 for the recovery of sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £30,472.

124. In the Commercial Court, 1,326 cases were instituted, of which 248 were for the determination of a point of fact or law, and 1,078 for the recovery of sums of money amounting in the aggregate to £46,541.

125. The business transacted in the Civil Court, Second Hall, was as follows :—

Applications disposed of...	...	...	...	1,927
Secret wills deposited	...	...	...	43
„ „ withdrawn	...	...	...	21
Deposits made	..	...	...	£703 9s. 7d.

Sales and Transfers of Property.

126. Thirty-three sales of immovable property for sums amounting in the aggregate to £8,647 19s. 4d., and 59 sales of movable property for sums amounting in the aggregate to £7,431 8s. 8½d., were effected during the year in the Superior Courts.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

127. The population on the 1st April, 1908, was estimated at 209,974, as against 206,689 on the same date in the previous year, giving an increase of 3,285.

Births.

128. The total number of births in the two years was as follows :—

				1906-7.	1907-8.
Males	...	...	...	4,050	4,333
Females	...	...	...	3,583	3,976
Total	...	...	...	7,633	8,309

The birth-rate in 1907-8 was 39·57 per mille, against 37·82 per mille in the previous year, and the average birth-rate for the last ten years was 38·67 per mille.

Deaths.

129. The total number of deaths was as follows :—

				1906-7.	1907-8.
Males	...	...	...	2,916	2,530
Females	...	...	...	2,636	2,369
Total	...	...	...	5,552	4,899

130. The death-rate in 1907-8 was 23·09 per mille, as against 25·85 in 1906-7, while the average death-rate for the past ten years was 25·33 per mille. The excess of births over deaths during the year was 3,310.

Marriages.

131. The number of marriages in 1907-8 was 1,220, and in the previous year 1,517.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

132. During the year under review the general state of the public health was good.

Infectious Diseases.

133. The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases reported, and the number of deaths from each disease, during the past two years :—

	1906-7.		1907-8.	
	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Cases.	No. of Deaths.
Broncho-pneumonia	50	37	46	35
Chicken-pox	77	—	84	—
Continued fever	87	5	6	3
Diphtheria	327	99	201	48
Enteric fever	80	19	86	23
Erysipelas	71	7	81	7
Febrile puerperal diseases	15	5	—	—
Influenza	348	7	114	6
Measles... ..	5	—	1,931	82
Pneumonia	48	26	61	32
Remittent or Mediterranean fever ...	883	80	520	45
Scarlet fever	3	—	10	1
Small-pox	5	—	107	12
Whooping cough	592	33	131	3
Total	2,591	318	3,378	297

134. It will be noted that, although the total number of cases reported was higher than last year, there was not a proportionate increase in the number of deaths.

135. While the number of cases of enteric fever and erysipelas remained practically stationary, the number of cases of continued fever was insignificant, as compared with that of the previous year, and there was also a considerable abatement in diphtheria, influenza, and whooping cough. There was, however, an outbreak of small-pox, due to the importation of infection from

Tunis, as well as a very serious epidemic of measles for which no special reason can be given. The number of deaths from small-pox was 11 per cent., and the number from measles 4·23 per cent., which cannot be considered abnormally high in either case.

136. For the reasons given in last year's report, the incidence of Mediterranean fever among the civil population continues to be high, whilst, thanks to the strenuous efforts of the naval and military authorities to stamp out the disease, the two services may now be said to be practically immune, the number of cases during the year having been 11 in the Army and 7 in the Navy. As the majority of the civil population still show little disposition to recognise the results of the Mediterranean Fever Commission, or to take heed of its recommendations, a committee has recently been appointed, consisting of official and elected members of the Council of Government, and other gentlemen, to consider what steps can be taken by the Government for the suppression of Mediterranean fever among the general population of these islands, particularly in the direction of eliminating goats which are infected with the disease.

Infant Mortality.

137. The number of deaths which occurred among children under five years of age was 2,690, or 54·9 per cent. of the total number of deaths, as against 2,878, or 51·8 per cent. in 1906-7.

138. For some years past, the excessive mortality among infants has received a good deal of public attention and in 1905 an association was formed, under the title of "Associazione pro Infantia," with the object of diffusing among the lower orders a knowledge of the elementary principles of hygiene, and of the rules which should be observed during pregnancy and suckling, and in the management of the health of children. Although the Association is carrying on an active propaganda, it is doubtful whether its efforts will meet with much success, as all new hygienic methods and ideas are regarded with suspicion by the uneducated classes, which form the large majority of the population.

Vaccination.

139. The total number of vaccinations in the two Islands was 12,141, of which only 135 were unsuccessful.

(C.) SANITATION.

140. The following is a list of the principal drainage works carried out during the year under the General Drainage Scheme:—

- Completing the drainage of Hamrun (drained area 33,000 square yards).
- Continuing the drainage of Victoria, Gozo.
- Completing the Marsa and Marina Drainage.

Extending sewers in the following villages, &c. :—

				Drained area.
Birchircara	...	...	...	28,300 square yards.
Rabato	...	...	...	300 "
Sliema	...	...	...	4,100 "
St. Julian's	...	...	...	8,400 "
Misida	...	...	...	4,700 "
Calcara	...	...	...	1,700 "
Hamrun	...	...	...	8,000 "
Zabbar	...	...	...	140,000 "

141. The works carried out during the year under the scheme for flushing the drainage system of Malta with sea water, were the following :—

Constructing a further portion of the road of approach to the Pumping Station at Ghar Lapsi.

Laying the pumping main and the distributing main from Fawara to Rabato.

Excavating the boiler room at the pumping station.

(D.) CLIMATE.

142. The meteorological returns for 1907-8 are given in the following table :—

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.		Winds.	
	Solar Maximum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Mean Daily Range.	Mean Temperature.	No. of inches.	Mean percentage Humidity.	General Direction.	Average Force.
1907.									
April ...	139.2	75.2	49.8	8.7	58.2	1.298	74.4	N.W. & S.	3.4
May ...	139.6	80.6	51.0	11.0	64.8	—	75.8	E. & S.E.	2.5
June ...	141.0	84.2	58.5	11.8	69.8	—	68.8	W. & N.W.	3.8
July ...	146.0	90.0	67.5	13.0	76.0	0.012	75.7	S. & N.W.	1.7
August ...	150.0	94.1	69.9	11.2	78.7	—	69.9	N.W. & W.	1.8
September...	146.0	86.7	60.0	10.1	74.5	2.296	89.2	S.E. & S.	1.8
October ...	147.6	90.5	57.3	9.5	72.0	5.340	74.1	S. & S.E.	2.1
November ...	140.0	79.0	55.0	8.2	64.5	3.923	74.4	S. & S.E.	2.8
December ...	138.0	70.5	47.0	8.5	58.0	0.510	76.2	W. & S.	2.0
1908.									
January ...	131.9	67.5	48.0	8.1	54.8	0.696	78.3	E. & W.	2.8
February ...	128.0	63.5	41.5	7.7	53.3	2.441	74.3	S.W. & W.	2.6
March ...	138.0	64.4	47.6	8.4	55.5	2.981	75.6	W. & N.W.	3.0

143. The highest temperature in the shade was 94.1° on the 12th August, 1907, and the lowest 41.5° on the 4th February last. The mean temperature for the year was 65.0°, as compared with 63.8° in 1906-7. The mean temperature for the summer months.

(June, July, August, and September) was 80.9° , or 4.8° above the mean for the same months in 1906. The mean temperature for the winter months (January, February, and March) was 54.5° , or 3.2° above that of the same months in 1907.

144. The total rainfall was 19.479 inches, or 9.466 inches below that of the previous year. The average rainfall for the past seven years was 22.916 inches. The greatest amount of rain in one day was 3.706 inches on the 20th October, 1907, which was the heaviest fall of rain in one day since 1883.

145. The prevailing winds were south on 56 days, west on 52 days, and north-west on 45 days, while the average velocity per hour was 8.6 miles, as against 10 miles in the previous twelve months.

146. The average number of hours of bright sunshine per day was 8.2.

VII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) POST OFFICE.

147. The transactions of the Post Office during 1907-8, as compared with those of the previous year, continue to show a decline in almost all branches, which is attributable mainly to commercial depression.

Postal Matter Dealt with.

148. Details of the postal matter dealt with in the past two years are given in the following table :—

	1906-7.		1907-8.	
	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.
Letters	1,830,179	2,090,062	1,758,770	2,109,601
Post-cards... ..	257,322	474,006	222,664	383,877
Printed matter ...	875,849	408,694	915,642	363,363
Parcels	49,401	15,468	48,685	14,672
Total... ..	3,012,751	2,988,230	2,945,761	2,871,513
	6,000,981		5,817,274	

There was, therefore, a decrease of 183,707, in the total number of articles which passed through the post during the year under review.

Mails.

149. The total number of mails received was 7,750, and the number despatched 5,177, as against 7,439 and 5,110, respectively, in 1906-7.

Registered Articles.

150. The total number of registered articles received and despatched was 139,212, as against 140,843 in 1906-7, a decrease of 1,631.

Money Orders and Postal Orders.

151. The total number of money orders issued and paid in the Colony was 11,397 (£42,731), as against 11,095 (£44,474) in the previous year, and the total number of postal orders issued and paid was 116,786 (£65,681) as against 113,623 (£66,643) in 1906-7.

Parcel Post.

152. The total number of parcels received and despatched during the year was 63,357, as against 64,869 in 1906-7, showing a decrease of 1,512 parcels, attributable partly to the competition of steamship companies which carry larger and heavier parcels than can be forwarded through the post, and partly to the recent reduction in the rate of postage for letters, owing to which small packets, hitherto forwarded by parcel post, are now sent as letters.

(B.) TELEGRAPHS.

153. The foreign telegraph system is under the exclusive control of the Eastern Telegraph Company. There are no local telegraphs.

(C.) TELEPHONES.

154. The total length of aerial telephone wires belonging to the military authorities on the 31st March last, was 650 miles, the total length open to the public being $18\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the same as in the previous year.

155. The "Melita Telephone Exchange," which is a private company, had 720 miles of wires on the 31st March, 1908, as against 696 miles of wires on the same date in the previous year.

VIII.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

156. The total strength of the garrison on the 31st March, 1908, was 8,926 of all ranks, as against 8,709 on the corresponding date in the previous year, distributed as follows :—

(a) Regular troops :—

Officers	...	...	...	...	305
Warrant officers	...	...	...	...	42
Non-commissioned officers and men					6,506
					6,853

(b) Militia (King's Own Malta Regiment and Royal Engineers, Malta Division) :—

Officers	...	...	...	...	58
Warrant officers	...	...	...	...	2
Non-commissioned officers and men					2,013
					2,073

Total	...	...	...	...	8,926
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157. The total expenditure on the garrison was £468,244, as against £494,439 in 1906-7, while the cost of the Militia was £15,988, against £14,267 in the previous year.

158. The colonial contribution was, as usual, £5,000.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

VISIT OF THEIR MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN.

159. Their Majesties King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra, accompanied by H.R.H. Princess Victoria, honoured these islands with a visit in April, 1907. The Royal party arrived here on the 13th and remained till the 17th, and was everywhere received with loyal enthusiasm by all classes of the population.

A levée was held by His Majesty in the Hall of St. Michael and St. George in the Valletta Palace, at which many presentations were made. The troops composing the garrison were reviewed by His Majesty at Marsa, and a naval review was held at Floriana, after which the King was pleased to unveil the memorial which has been erected in the Maglio Gardens to the memory of Sir Adrian Dingli, late Chief Justice and President of the Court of Appeal.

APPOINTMENT OF A HIGH COMMISSIONER.

160. Another important event of the year was the appointment, under His Majesty's Letters Patent of the 10th December, 1907, of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., to be Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief the British Troops and High Commissioner in the Mediterranean.

His Royal Highness, who was accompanied by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught, arrived on board H.M.S. "Aboukir" on the 4th January last, and received a cordial welcome.

The Valletta and Sant' Antonio Palaces have been temporarily placed at the disposal of Their Royal Highnesses during their stay in Malta.

POLITICAL SITUATION.

161. The Council of Government which had been in existence since the 20th May, 1904, was prorogued on the 28th March, 1907, and a writ was issued for a general election on the 1st April, the following candidates being nominated, viz. :—

1st District—	Andrea Pullicino, Esq., M.D.
2nd ,,	Paolo Sammut, Esq.
3rd ,,	Francesco Azzopardi, Esq., P.L.
4th ,,	Beniamino Bonnici, Esq., LL.D.
5th ,,	Salvatore Cachia Zammit, Esq.
6th ,,	Alfredo Mattei, Esq., LL.D.
7th ,,	Alfonso Maria Micallef, Esq.
8th ,,	Arturo Mercieca, Esq., M.A., LL.D.

162. As only one candidate was nominated for each district, it was not necessary to take a poll, and the above-mentioned candidates were returned as elected.

163. The first session of the new Council was held on the 29th May, when the elected members, who had been absent from the Council since June, 1903, took their seats. After some pressing business had been disposed of, the Council was adjourned to the 13th November.

CHANGES IN ESTABLISHMENT.

164. Sir Charles Mansfield Clarke, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.V.O., relinquished the administration of these islands on the 2nd May, 1907, and the senior military officer in the command (Major General H. Barron, C.V.O.), administered the government till the arrival of His Excellency Lieutenant-General H. F. Grant, C.B., on the 31st October, 1907.

165. Owing to the elevation of Professor (now Judge) Parnis to the Bench, a vacancy occurred in the chair of Commercial

law in the University, and Mr M. A. Refalo, LL.D., was appointed professor in that subject, in December, 1907.

RAILWAY.

166. The gross revenue for the year was £8,420, as against £8,223 in 1906-7, and the expenditure, including the cost of renewals, (£1,815) was £8,376, as against £9,494 in the previous year.

Railway Technical School.

167. The average number of apprentices who attended the school during the year under review was 17, as against 16 in 1906-7.

WATERWORKS.

168. The cost of the waterworks branch (exclusive of new works) was £13,379, and the revenue derived from water supplied and rent of meters was £18,113, as compared with £13,013 and £19,256, respectively, in 1906-7.

169. The new service reservoir at Sliema was completed during the year, and further progress was made with the work of deepening the tunnel between Wied-el-Kbir and Wied-is-Seuda pumping stations.

170. 580,205,000 gallons of water were consumed, as against 657,000,000 gallons consumed in the previous year.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

171. The revenue derived from the electric lighting installation was £17,421, against £18,293 in 1906-7, and the working expenses amounted to £11,100, as against £11,057.

172. The capital outlay on the 31st March, 1908, was £70,541, and the net profit on the year's working was £6,321, or 8·9 per cent. of the capital outlay.

173. In 1906-7 the net profit was £7,236; there was, therefore, a shrinkage of £915 in the year under review, due mainly to the facts (*a*) that the amount due by the Military Authorities for current supplied to them during the last quarter had not been paid at the close of the financial year; (*b*) that, owing to improvements in the glow-lamps, less current was consumed for street lighting than in 1906-7, and (*c*) that the cost of renewals, which in previous years was charged to the renewal and extension fund, was in 1907-8 defrayed from general revenue.

174. The total number of units generated (exclusive of central station units) was 1,070,720, and the consumption of coal amounted to 3,168 tons, as compared with 972,657 units generated, and 3,279 tons of coal consumed in 1906-7. It will be noted that although the number of units generated in 1907-8

was considerably larger than that of the previous year, it was found possible to effect an economy of nearly 1 lb. per unit generated, the consumption of coal having been 6·6 lbs. per unit, as against 7·5 lbs. per unit in 1906-7. This is attributable mainly to the excellent quality of the coal, which was obtained through the Crown Agents.

SURVEY OF THE ISLAND.

175. The work done on the survey of the Island in 1907-8 was as follows :—

Survey with plane table	...	...	1,727·3 acres.
Traversing	...	...	105·3 miles.
Sheets checked (3,357·2 acres)	...	...	6½ No.
„ published (3,096 acres)...	...	...	6 „
„ being printed at Chatham (1,033 acres). ...	...	...	2 „

SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

176. There is little or no change to record during the past twelve months. The supply of labour now exceeds the demand, and a considerable number of artisans are unable to obtain employment. The outlook is, undoubtedly, not encouraging, in view of the large annual increase of the population, but the situation has not yet become so acute as to induce the working classes to contemplate emigration.

I have, &c.,

E. M. MEREWETHER,

Lieutenant-Governor and
Chief Secretary to Government.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.						
No.	Colony, &c.					Year.
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
539	Leeward Islands	...	...	...	...	"
540	Straits Settlements	...	...	...	...	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	...	...	...	...	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
543	Bahamas	...	...	...	...	"
544	Barbados	...	...	...	...	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago	...	...	...	...	"
546	Grenada	...	...	...	...	"
547	Mauritius	...	...	...	...	1906
548	Fiji	...	...	...	...	"
549	Jamaica	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
550	British Guiana	...	...	...	...	"
551	Northern Nigeria	...	...	...	...	"
552	British Honduras	...	...	...	...	1906
553	St. Lucia	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria	...	...	...	...	1906
555	St. Vincent	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
556	Basutoland	...	...	...	...	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	...	...	...	...	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	...	...	...	...	"
559	Swaziland	...	...	...	...	"
560	St. Helena	...	...	...	...	1907
561	Ceylon	...	...	...	...	"
562	Falkland Islands	...	...	...	...	"
563	Gibraltar	...	...	...	...	"
564	Ashanti	...	...	...	...	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	...	...	...	...	1907-1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	1907
567	Seychelles	...	...	...	...	"
568	Bermuda	...	...	...	...	"
569	Weihaiwei	...	...	...	...	"
570	Hong Kong	...	...	...	...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.			Subject.
44	East Africa Protectorate	...	...	Survey Department.
45	Do. do.	...	...	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria	...	...	Mineral Survey, 1904-5.
47	Do. do.	...	...	Do. 1905-6.
48	Nyasaland Protectorate	...	...	Do.
49	East Africa Protectorate	...	...	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies	...	...	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	...	...	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	...	...	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	...	...	Veterinary Bacteriological work, 1907-8.

LONDON:
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By DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 547.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1906.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 506.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

October, 1907.



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1907.

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No. 547.

MAURITIUS.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 506.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Mauritius,

August 27, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of the Blue Book of Mauritius for the year 1906, and of the Colonial Secretary's report thereon, which has been printed for convenience of transmission and perusal.

I have, &c.,

CAVENDISH BOYLE.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine,

K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR 1906.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue for the financial year 1905-6 amounted to Rs. 11,169,783.21, as shown by the following comparative statement:—

Revenue.

No.	Heads of Revenue.	1904-5.	1905-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1	Customs	3,567,496.72	3,486,682.04	—	80,813.68
2	Port, Harbour, and Light-house Dues.	206,843.90	263,073.55	56,229.65	—
3	Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	2,464,920.98	2,530,444.46	65,523.48	—
4	Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid.	239,259.88	269,353.06	30,093.18	—
5	Post Office and Telegraphs	136,720.36	139,479.45	2,759.09	—
6	Government Railways ...	2,657,596.00	2,437,510.65	—	220,085.35
7	Rent of Government Property.	70,752.16	64,745.79	27,125.97	—
8	Interest	908,899.53	936,025.50	—	—
9	Miscellaneous Receipts ...	146,902.11	159,865.80	12,963.69	—
10	Land Sales	164.27	641.53	477.06	—
11	Revenue from Loan Ordinance 31 of 1904.	10,399,554.91	10,287,821.63	195,172.12	306,905.40
		—	881,961.58	881,961.58	—
	Total	10,399,554.91	11,169,783.21	1,077,133.70	306,905.40
	Result—Net increase ...	—	—	770,228.30	—

The increase of revenue, as compared with the preceding year, was due to the reimbursement out of the loan raised under Ordinance 31 of 1904, of the cost of certain public works which had in previous years been charged to the general revenue.

Expenditure.

The following is a comparative statement of the expenditure for the years 1904-5 and 1905-6:—

No.	Heads of Service.	1904-5.	1905-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1	Charge on account of Public Debt	1,022,873.25	1,264,583.79	241,710.54	—
2	Pensions	560,432.73	585,799.58	25,366.85	—
3	Governor and Legislature	94,156.55	94,307.63	151.08	—
4	Colonial Secretariat ...	67,066.92	58,001.83	—	9,065.09
5	Receiver General	148,693.26	143,451.30	—	5,241.96
6	Auditor General	55,306.45	56,273.28	966.83	—
7	Customs	233,374.12	126,542.87	—	106,831.25
8	Port and Marine	421,132.17	336,413.87	—	84,718.30
9	Meteorological Observatory	23,557.13	21,135.96	—	2,371.17
10	Public Library and Museum	10,571.08	10,426.34	—	144.74
11	Registrar General	20,746.46	19,751.94	—	994.52

Expenditure—cont.

No.	Heads of Service.	1904-5.	1905-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
12	Receiver of Registration Dues.	50,188.54	50,600.87	412.33	—
13	Postal and Telegraph Department.	147,637.23	150,079.92	2,442.69	—
14	Forests and Gardens ...	143,258.44	142,377.81	—	880.63
15	Judicial Departments ...	495,650.43	463,194.52	—	32,455.91
16	Ecclesiastical ...	152,635.96	152,698.96	63.00	—
17	Education ...	595,299.19	584,350.56	—	10,948.63
18	Medical and Health Department.	750,569.28	734,705.64	—	15,863.64
19	Quarantine ...	61,948.43	15,122.09	—	46,826.34
20	Poor Law Department ...	210,321.23	202,297.57	—	8,023.66
21	Police ...	533,882.01	553,479.85	19,597.84	—
22	Prisons and Reformatory...	169,345.25	178,901.97	9,556.72	—
23	Storekeeper General ...	40,683.76	36,665.14	—	4,018.62
24	Immigration ...	142,376.74	109,653.89	—	32,722.85
25	Dependencies ...	70,295.14	55,213.33	—	15,081.81
26	Crown Agents ...	15,258.69	4,436.94	—	10,821.75
27	Writers and Copyists ...	5,855.22	4,974.43	—	880.79
28	Transport ...	7,925.98	1,559.49	—	6,366.49
29	Miscellaneous ...	814,182.10	468,259.12	—	345,922.98
30	Charitable Allowances ...	36,793.31	10,004.20	—	26,789.11
31	Interest and Exchange ...	246,252.45	206,845.02	—	39,407.43
32	Military Expenditure ...	433,274.21	476,550.11	43,275.90	—
33	Railway Department ...	1,872,258.06	1,741,273.00	—	130,985.06
34	Public Works Department	69,010.90	82,445.48	13,434.58	—
35	Public Works, Recurrent...	546,263.61	492,942.17	—	53,321.44
36	Public Works, Extraordinary.	24,433.00	37,951.18	13,518.18	—
37	Loan (Hurricane) Board Office.	14,278.98	12,391.54	—	1,887.44
38	Mare-aux-Vacoas Water Works.	44,733.29	43,034.26	—	1,699.03
39	Drainage Works (Upkeep)	24,133.32	16,861.58	—	7,271.74
40	Secret Service ...	526.55	—	—	526.55
41	Plague Services ...	186,340.01	170,259.49	—	16,080.52
	Total ...	10,563,521.43	9,915,868.52	370,496.54	1,018,149.45
	Result—Net decrease . .	—	—	—	647,652.91

The decrease in expenditure in 1905-6 may be attributed partly to the fact that in 1904-5 large sums spent on reafforestation and the Station Agronomique in previous years under "Advances" were written off to expenditure head "Miscellaneous," and partly to the savings in 1905-6 under head "Railways," caused by the non-execution in time of certain indents for railway materials.

POSITION OF THE COLONY AT THE CLOSE OF THE
YEAR 1905-6.

Rs.

At the close of the year 1904-5 there was a deficit of... 81,720
As the revenue of 1905-6 exceeded the expenditure by ... 1,253,915

A balance in favour of the Treasury of... 1,172,195

is, therefore, shown on 30th June, 1906.

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years, and the Treasury balances at the close of each year, were as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Treasury Balances.	Debit Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1901-2 ...	9,140,754	9,043,066	1,834,669	
1902-3 ...	9,221,600	9,575,182	1,263,430	
1903-4 ...	9,473,112	10,664,115	82,247	
1904-5 ...	10,399,554	10,563,521	—	81,720
1905-6 ...	11,169,783	9,915,868	1,172,195	

Assets and Liabilities on 30th June, 1906.

1. Commissioners of currency:—

	Rs.
Assets	7,049,701
Liabilities	6,876,255
Balance in favour of Commissioners ...	173,446

2. Government savings bank:—

	Rs.
Assets	3,130,970
Liabilities	2,830,272
Balance in favour of bank	300,698

3. Treasury proper:—

	Rs.
Assets	4,299,779
Liabilities	3,127,584
Balance in favour of Treasury	1,172,195

4. Public debt:—

The public debt stood as follows on the 30th June, 1906:—

	£	s.	d.
(1) 6 per cent. Railway Debenture, under Ordinance 15 of 1864 (matured bond unclaimed)	1,000	0	0
(2) Savanne Railway 4½ per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings	35,300	0	0
Carried forward	36,300	0	0

MAURITIUS, 1906.

7

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	36,300	0	0
(3) Moka Railway 4 per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings	500	0	0
(4) Consolidated 4 per cent. Debentures, payable by annual drawings	49,900	0	0
(5) Mauritius 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock, under Ordinances 1 and 22 of 1887, including loan made for Mare-aux-Vacoas (£34,000) ...	482,390	16	0
(6) Hurricane Loan 3 per cent. Imperial Guaranteed Stock, under Ordinance 4 of 1892... ..	600,000	0	0
(7) 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock, under Ordinances Nos. 31 of 1904 and 39 of 1905	150,000	0	0
	£1,319,090 16 0		

For the redemption of the debentures and inscribed stock, the several sinking funds and cash balances in the hands of the trustees on the 30th June, 1906, amounted to £217,284, the amount duly provided as required by law.

The sum at the credit of the sinking funds on 30th June, 1906, showed an increase of £19,477 on the previous year.

Currency.

Amount of currency notes on 31st December, 1906:—

	£	s.	d.
Issue of 1848 and 1849 (dollars and cents)...	483	16	5
Issue of 1860 (sterling)	3,405	0	0
	£3,888 16 5		

Rupee notes, under Ordinance 28 of 1876:—

	Rs.
1. In the Commissioners' vault... ..	2,700,005
2. In the hands of the public (including the banks and financial officers)	4,176,250
	6,876,255

CHANGES IN TAXATION.

None during the year 1906.

MUNICIPALITIES.

Statement of the revenue and expenditure of the municipality of Port Louis for year ended 31st December, 1906:—

					Rs.
Balance in hand 1st January, 1906	...	...	...	...	77,713.89
Revenue during the year	...	...	...	...	*720,728.68
					798,442.57
Expenditure	...	...	...	...	*750,702.41
					798,442.57
Balance in hand on 31st December, 1906	...	...	...	...	47,740.16

The following is a comparative statement of the normal revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.			Revenue.	Expenditure.
			Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1902	...	...	442,825.20	472,875.39
1903	...	...	†422,351.45	451,345.77
1904	...	...	501,365.27	502,601.14
1905	...	...	‡548,138.80	492,785.18
1906	...	...	537,366.04	510,587.68

Statement of the debt of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis on 31st December, 1906, showing provision for payment in 1907:—

Loan.	Amount.	Repayments to be made in 1907.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Conversion Loan	120,400 0 0	1,700 0 0
Electric Lighting Loan	9,666 13 4	333 6 8
	Rs.	Rs. c.
Colonial Loan	23,400	7,800.00
Grand River Bridge Loan	10,000	2,000.00
Manure Establishment Loan	20,000	2,000.00
Government Hurricane Loan	84,116	6,237.16
Flood Loan	8,333	4,167.00
Municipality Loan	24,000	2,000.00
Total	169,849	24,204.16

* Including advances, deposits, balance of loan of £10,000, &c.

† Not including a loan of Rs. 30,000 for the purchase of the buildings of the Gas Company and of a traction engine for scavenging purposes.

‡ Not including a loan of £10,000 for Electric Lighting plant of the town

Provision for payment of capital and interest on the above loans has been duly made in the annual budget of the Corporation.

Besides the Municipal Council of Port Louis, which is an elective assembly, there are three township boards—

Curepipe,
Beau Bassin and Rose Hill,
Quatre Bornes,

appointed annually by the Governor to administer the affairs of those places.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CUREPIPE.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

—	1901.	1902.	Half-year 1903.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	115,590.13	121,322.70	35,536.20	82,771.72	63,933.62	65,776.19
Expenditure ..	88,426.58	120,286.57	34,261.02	81,168.12	67,729.06	64,740.09

Debt of the Board of Curepipe.

—	Amount.	
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Amount of Debentures issued in 1901 and 1902 for the construction of the Town Hall, in virtue of Ordinance No. 39 of 1900.	70,000	
Amount paid off in 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1906	12,500	57,500
2. Government Special Loan repayable in 10 Annuities.	25,000	
Amount paid off in 1905 and in 1906... ..	5,000	20,000
Total		77,500

Provision is made annually for repayment.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BEAU BASSIN AND ROSE HILL.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	28,252.08	29,342.81	29,270.19	29,345.61	26,644.97	26,476.80
Expenditure ..	27,520.54	33,133.34	29,235.29	26,260.19	28,166.97	25,188.03

Debt.—A loan of Rs. 20,000 was made to the Board by Government on its creation to permit of the works of repairing and draining the streets and lanes of the township being undertaken without delay. This amount is refunded by annual instalments of Rs. 1,500, and the debt is now reduced to Rs. 4,500.

A further loan of Rs. 5,000 was made to the Board in 1901, to be reimbursed after settlement of the loan of Rs. 20,000.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF QUATRE BORNES.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure.

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	12,827.14	13,627.55	15,480.80	12,724.51	12,549.48	12,624.69
Expenditure ..	10,148.32	13,454.95	14,000.25	13,274.16	12,571.97	12,415.57

Debt. Rs. 615.—This represents the share to be paid to Government by the Board for re-metalling a main road in the township. Provision has been made in the estimates to pay off this debt.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following statements show in a comparative form the value of the imports and exports for the year 1906:—

VALUE OF IMPORTS and EXPORTS (including charges and exchange) classified according to Secretary of State's Circular Despatch of 5th December, 1891.

	Imports.		Exports.					
	1905.	1906.	Home Produce.		Foreign Produce.		Total.	
			1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.		
1. Live animals, Food and Drink, and Narcotics.	Rs. 13,504,402.30	Rs. 14,888,254.87	Rs. 35,175,024.20	Rs. 38,715,788.67	Rs. 123,901.03	Rs. 161,445.76	Rs. 35,298,925.23	Rs. 38,877,234.43
2. Raw Materials :—								
1. Textile ...	12,844.65	14,805.44	564,548.30	737,602.32	—	490.00	564,548.30	738,092.32
2. Metal... ..	—	—	—	—	—	55,106.48	—	55,106.48
3. Other... ..	2,492,290.91	2,531,184.30	29,467.23	68,015.70	8,434.00	17,115.46	37,901.23	85,131.16
3. Manufactured Articles :—								
1. Textile ...	3,316,642.45	3,962,920.76	4,910.50	2,225.00	14,765.99	57,885.23	19,676.49	60,110.23
2. Metal... ..	1,834,843.36	1,294,944.33	28,891.00	10,581.50	106,164.10	34,726.92	135,055.10	45,308.42
3. Other... ..	4,995,839.43	6,275,166.58	5,594.00	17,907.00	574,454.30	268,252.98	580,048.30	286,159.98
4. Coin, Bullion, and Specie of all kinds.	787,536.10	620,978.97	—	—	206,891.50	1,008,977.00	206,891.50	1,008,977.00
Total ...	26,944,399.20	29,588,255.25	35,808,435.23	39,552,120.19	1,034,610.92	1,603,999.83	36,843,046.15	41,156,120.02

VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS (including charges and exchange) classified according to Secretary of State's Circular Despatch of 5th December, 1891.
Coastwise.

	Imports.		Exports					
			Home Produce.		Foreign Produce.		Total.	
	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905	1906.	1905.	1906.
1. Live animals, Food and Drink, and Narcotics.	Rs. 402,108.32	Rs. 372,182.94	Rs. 12,385.91	Rs. 17,520.63	Rs. 202,543.06	Rs. 249,710.50	Rs. 214,928.97	Rs. 267,231.13
2. Raw Materials :—								
1. Textile ...	—	—	—	—	—	48.00	—	48.00
2. Metal... ..	—	—	—	—	—	395.70	—	395.70
3. Other... ..	9,992.25	32,690.86	156.00	2,027.00	1,120.50	11,494.80	1,276.50	13,521.80
3. Manufactured Articles :—								
1. Textile ...	—	—	225.00	—	156,908.06	80,871.38	157,133.06	80,871.38
2. Metal ...	—	—	568.30	642.00	18,801.15	20,032.57	19,389.45	20,674.57
3. Other... ..	21,601.85	375.50	5,984.46	4,139.37	69,379.04	74,872.65	75,363.50	79,012.02
4. Coin, Bullion, and Specie of all kinds.	—	—	—	—	5,000.00	—	5,000.00	—
Total ...	433,702.42	405,249.30	19,319.67	24,329.00	453,751.81	437,425.60	473,071.48	461,754.60

CUSTOMS.

The following statements show the value of goods imported into, and exported from, Mauritius during the year 1906:—

Imports.

Countries.	Value in Rupees of the Total Imports, exclusive of Charges and Exchange.	Charges and Exchange.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	5,112,629.04	3,858,632.85	8,971,261.89
British Possessions	11,708,906.33	3,120,529.99	14,829,436.32
Foreign Countries	3,579,877.41	2,207,679.63	5,787,557.04
Total	20,401,412.78*	9,186,842.47	29,588,255.25

* Inclusive of amount of specie and bullion imported (Rs. 571,775.13).

Exports.

Countries.	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	Shipping Charges on Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce and Manufactures.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	2,823,827.12	157,913.00	274,925.97	3,256,666.09
British Possessions	32,533,375.74	1,919,155.12	1,126,630.67	35,579,161.53
Foreign Countries	1,798,623.24	319,225.97	202,443.19	2,320,292.40
Total	37,155,826.10	2,396,294.09	1,603,999.83	41,156,120.02†

† Inclusive of amount of specie and bullion exported (Rs. 1,008,977).

TRADE IN MAURITIUS.

1. The total value of imports into, and exports from, the Colony (exclusive of duty-free goods to and from the Dependencies) for the year ended 31st December, 1906, compared with 1905, can be thus summarised:—

—	1905.	1906.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports (including charges and exchange)	26,944,399.20	29,588,255.25
Exports (including shipping charges on local produce and manufacture).	36,843,046.15	41,156,120.02
Total	63,787,445.35	70,744,375.27

accounted for as under:—

—	Imports.		Exports.	
	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	7,357,173.66	8,971,261.89	2,691,079.38	3,256,666.09
British Possessions.	13,541,654.69	14,829,436.32	33,208,007.44	35,579,161.53
Foreign Countries.	6,045,570.85	5,787,557.04	943,959.33	2,320,292.40
Total ...	26,944,399.20	29,588,255.25	36,843,046.15	41,156,120.02

2. The total value of imports and exports, from and to the Dependencies, per coast sufferances, is as follows:—

—			1905.	1906.
			Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Imports	...	...	433,702.42	405,249.30
Exports	...	...	473,071.48	461,754.60
Total	...	...	906,773.90	867,003.90

3. The aggregate value of trade is therefore as under:—

—			1905.	1906.
			Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Imports	...	...	27,378,101.62	29,993,504.55
Exports	...	...	37,316,117.63	41,617,874.62
Total	...	...	64,694,219.25	71,611,379.17

4. Excluding the value of exports to, and imports from, the Dependencies, the rate of trade per head of population (*i.e.*, for 1905—382,787 souls, and for 1906—380,972 souls) is:—

—	1905.	1906.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports (including charges and exchange)	70.39	77.66
Exports (including shipping charges on local produce and manufacture).	96.24	108.02

5. The value of specie and bullion, imported and exported, is as follows:—

—	1905.			1906.		
	Declared Value.	Charges.	Total.	Declared Value.	Charges.	Total.
Imports	Rs. c. 740,568.00	Rs. c. 46,968.10	Rs. c. 787,536.10	Rs. c. 571,775.13	Rs. c. 49,203.84	Rs. c. 620,978.97
Exports	206,891.50	—	206,891.50	1,008,977.00	—	1,008,977.00
Total	947,459.50	46,968.10	994,427.60	1,580,752.13	49,203.84	1,629,955.97

6. Deducting specie and bullion, the declared value of imports and exports, mentioned in paragraph 1, is as follows:—

—				1905.	1906.
				Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Imports				26,156,863.10	28,967,276.28
Exports				36,636,154.65	40,147,143.02
Total... ..				62,793,017.75	69,114,419.30

7. The amount of duty collected during the years 1905 and 1906 (1st January to 31st December) is as under:—

—				1905.	1906.
				Rs. c.	Rs. c.
On Imports... ..				2,918,695.84	3,023,013.11
On Exports... ..				526,717.49	598,441.93
Total... ..				3,445,413.33	3,621,455.04

(1) The 4 per cent. surcharge produced:— Rs.
 In 1905 99,085.42
 In 1906 103,261.73

(2) The additional 16 per cent. surcharge produced:—
 In 1905 329,471.02
 In 1906 332,425.62

(3) The additional 2 cents per 100 kilos of sugar (deposits) for the station agromique produced:—
 In 1905 32,839.03
 In 1906 37,278.15

Postal Parcels.

8. The declared value of the parcels imported and exported during the past five years 1902-1906 is as under:—

—	1902.	1903	1904.	1905.	1906.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Imported ...	231,993.73	224,885.17	297,804.73	263,198.86	301,566.71
Exported ...	20,628.64	28,624.83	33,467.35	42,286.27	35,742.77
Total ...	252,622.37	253,510.00	331,272.08	305,485.13	337,309.48

Imports and Exports.

9. The total value of imports and exports for the last five years, 1902 to 1906 is as under:—

Year.	Imports, including Charges and Exchange.	Exports, including Shipping Charges.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
1902	30,738,778.11	38,341,695.55
1903	39,269,847.24	37,794,266.75
1904	35,416,624.01	44,545,320.33
1905	26,944,399.20	36,843,046.15
1906	29,588,255.25	41,156,120.02

10. Comparative statement of the value of the chief imports and exports (including charges and exchange).

Articles.	Imports.		Exports.			
			1905.		1906.	
	1905.	1906.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Animals	1,191,724	933,952	50	—	—	500
Apothecary wares	184,802	181,546	223	2,440	—	1,692
Apparel, wearing	150,899	138,336	127	2,346	25	2,438
Bags and pockets	744,961	1,266,363	4,263	7,236	2,200	8,005
Bicycles	10,431	13,814	—	625	—	325
Brass and copper wares	42,081	49,281	—	58,744	—	50,074
Coals	1,247,563	1,788,351	—	390	—	—
Clocks and watches	27,593	13,513	—	75	—	2,028
Corn, grain, meal, &c.	8,017,381	9,723,256	—	11,543	12	58,455
Cotton manufactures	1,487,243	1,759,327	—	43	—	29,749
Earthen and China wares	97,438	61,836	2	615	—	534
Fibre—aloe	—	—	561,548	—	737,602	—
Glass and glass wares	93,784	73,206	—	220	—	1,370
Haberdashery	901,343	648,274	21	1,504	—	14,253
Hardware and cutlery	1,085,520	1,539,362	7,763	47,250	1,129	26,791
Hats	63,154	71,143	—	—	—	185
Leather, wrought and unwrought.	234,685	209,264	27,198	7,235	47,406	16,508
Carried forward ..	15,280,602	18,472,868	604,195	140,266	788,376	211,905

Comparative Statement of the Value of the Chief Imports and Exports—cont.

Articles.	Imports.		Exports.			
			1905.		1906.	
	1905.	1906.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Brought forward ..	15,280,602	18,472,868	604,195	140,266	788,376	211,905
Machinery for agricultural purposes ..	238,219	333,308	—	—	—	—
Machinery and mill work ..	268,428	410,038	21,128	75	—	9,453
Manures and fertilizers ..	2,320,025	2,412,549	—	900	—	1,258
Malt liquors, wines and spirits ..	1,124,592	1,104,905	39,411	1,967	11,020	3,315
Matches ..	61,376	37,217	—	583	—	3,003
Molasses ..	—	—	405,258	—	763,116	—
Meat (fresh and frozen) ..	81,299	128,778	—	—	—	—
Oils (of all kinds) ..	889,735	851,013	50,607	89,054	110,247	69,176
Painters' colours ..	87,502	102,774	—	96	—	657
Paper, cigarette ..	62,702	35,658	—	695	—	—
Provisions (preserved) ..	1,600,944	1,791,513	12,533	19,477	37,461	23,871
Seeds (of all sorts) ..	48,598	64,312	684	426	335	3,126
Soap ..	238,285	219,388	783	126	—	1,033
Stationery ..	119,080	99,789	—	272	—	1,255
Sugar ..	897	19,850	34,537,625	—	37,763,843	—
Timber and Woodenware ..	844,826	1,070,771	2,648	21,667	1,880	4,428
Tobacco ..	415,080	412,024	—	769	—	1,818
Toys ..	41,234	42,539	155	216	—	—
Umbrellas and parasols ..	41,536	34,339	—	—	—	45
Vanilla ..	253	—	108,322	—	29,177	—
Woollen manufactures ..	172,592	154,320	—	1,813	—	187
Miscellaneous ..	1,915,789	830,837	25,086	507,061	46,685	224,750
Baggage and postal parcels ..	303,286	338,495	—	42,286	—	35,743
Total ..	26,156,863	28,967,276	35,808,435	827,719	39,552,120	595,023
Bullion and specie ..	787,536	620,979	—	206,892	—	1,008,977
Total ..	26,914,399	29,558,255	35,808,435	1,034,611	39,552,120	1,604,000

IMPORTS.

11. Dealing with the articles and their values according to the entries for 1905 and 1906 the following results are noticeable:—

Acids.

Phosphoric.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 196,900, of the value of Rs. 47,971, against kilos 122,231, of the value of Rs. 31,610, showing an increase both in weight of kilos 74,669 and in value of Rs. 16,361. The increase is exclusively due to more imports from the United Kingdom.

Ammonia Sulphate.

Kilos 4,300,071, of the value of Rs. 954,650, were imported exclusively from the United Kingdom in 1906, against kilos 4,677,256, of the value of Rs. 994,679 in 1905 imported from the United Kingdom and Australia. There was a decrease both in weight of kilos 377,185 and in value of Rs. 40,029. The United Kingdom showed a falling off of kilos 326,385 in weight and of Rs. 28,795 in value, while Australia supplied kilos 50,800, value Rs. 11,234 in 1905 against nil in 1906.

Animals.

Asses.—No asses were imported in 1906. The Argentine Confederation supplied 77 head valued Rs. 12,424 in 1905.

Cows and Oxen.—There were imported 9,055 head in 1906, of the value of Rs. 784,106, against 7,316 head in 1905, of the value of Rs. 653,587. The increase was of 1,739 in number and of Rs. 130,519 in value.

Oxen are exclusively supplied from Madagascar.

Dogs.—The imports for 1906 amounted to 27 dogs, of the value of Rs. 5,891, against 18, of the value of Rs. 879, for 1905. There was an increase of nine in number, with a surplus of Rs. 5,012 in value. France and the United Kingdom supplied 9 dogs, valued Rs. 1,558, and eight dogs, valued Rs. 3,678 respectively, in 1906, against three, valued Rs. 553, and two, valued Rs. 80.67, in 1905.

Horses.—There were imported 238 head, of the value of Rs. 83,174, from Australia, and one racehorse, valued Rs. 1,515, from Réunion, in 1906, against one horse, valued Rs. 251, from the Argentine Confederation, and two racehorses, valued Rs. 2,505, from Australia in 1905. There was an increase of 236 in number, and of Rs. 81,933 in value, principally due to the importations from Australia.

Ponies.—382 head, of the value of Rs. 60,146, were imported in 1906, against 384 head, of the value of Rs. 87,074, in 1905. There was a shortage of two in number, with a decrease of Rs. 26,928 in value. Sandalwood showed a shortage of 14 head, with a falling off in value of Rs. 19,021, while from Australia 12 ponies, valued Rs. 2,272, were received in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Mules.—No mules were imported in 1906, against 1,276, valued Rs. 413,325, and 58, valued Rs. 21,593, from the Argentine Confederation and Australia respectively in 1905. The decrease was of 1,334 in number and of Rs. 434,918 in value.

Apothecaries' Wares.

The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 177,775, against Rs. 181,211 for 1905, showing a falling off of Rs. 3,436. Decreases are from France (Rs. 3,499), Germany (Rs. 1,125), Spain (Rs. 844), China, the United States, Switzerland, Singapore, Pondichery, Belgium, and the Argentine Confederation. Increases are from the United Kingdom (Rs. 2,121), Australia and Continental India (Rs. 463). Belgium provided for Rs. 3,472 in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Apparel, Wearing.

The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 138,336, against Rs. 150,899 in 1905, showing a decline of Rs. 12,563; there was an increase of Rs. 15,603 from Continental India; slight

increases were noticeable under the United Kingdom (Rs. 545), Switzerland (Rs. 502), China (Rs. 362), Spain, Japan (Rs. 159). Australia, France, Germany, and Pondichery showed decreases of Rs. 121, Rs. 20,076, Rs. 489, and Rs. 8,731 respectively. Hong Kong and Natal provided for Rs. 857 and Rs. 30 in 1905, against nil in the past year, while on the other hand Ceylon and Zanzibar provided for Rs. 143 and Rs. 32 respectively in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Areca Nuts.

Kilos 15,531, of the value of Rs. 5,207, were received in 1906, against kilos 47,964, of the value of Rs. 12,493 in 1905. The decrease was therefore of kilos 32,433 in weight and of Rs. 7,286 in value. Ceylon and Continental India showed decreases of kilos 2,100 and kilos 30,333 in weight and of Rs. 838 and Rs. 6,448 respectively in value.

Automobiles.

One automobile, valued Rs. 7,912, was imported in 1906, against one, valued Rs. 4,449, in 1905, with the result of a surplus in value of Rs. 3,463. They were imported from the United Kingdom in each case.

Bacon and Hams.

Kilos 25,891, valued Rs. 34,620, were imported in 1906, against kilos 30,380, valued Rs. 37,674 in 1905. There was a decrease, both in weight of kilos 4,489 and in value of Rs. 3,054, due principally to the importations from the United Kingdom.

Baggage.

Dutiable articles, amounting to Rs. 36,928, were imported in 1906, against Rs. 40,090 in 1905, with a short difference of Rs. 3,162 in value.

Bags.

Gunny.—The imports amounted to 3,121,379 bags, valued Rs. 1,064,473, for 1906, against 1,653,574, valued Rs. 468,047 in 1905 showing an increase of 1,467,805 in number, with a surplus in value of Rs. 596,426. The bags were exclusively supplied from Continental India.

Straw.—Exclusively imported from Madagascar, which supplied 339,100 bags, valued Rs. 60,741, in 1906, against 132,450 bags, valued Rs. 20,490, in 1905. There was an increase both in number of 206,650 and in value of Rs. 40,251.

Bark and Dyewood.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 42,130, of the value of Rs. 6,027, against for 1905 kilos 89,247, of the value of Rs. 12,104. There was a decrease of kilos 47,117 in weight

and of Rs. 6,077 in value. Australia showed a shortage of kilos 51,319 in weight and of Rs. 6,760 in value. The United Kingdom supplied kilos 4,202, valued Rs. 684, in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Beef, Salted.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 291,058, of the value of Rs. 144,585, against for 1905 kilos 78,421, of the value of Rs. 41,461, showing an increase of kilos 212,637 in weight and of Rs. 103,124 in value. The increases are from the United Kingdom and the United States, which supplied kilos 9,227 and kilos 201,678 more in 1906, with a surplus in value of Rs. 5,188 and Rs. 97,614, respectively. France and Madagascar supplied small quantities in 1905, against nil in 1906, while Australia supplied kilos 3,211, of the value of Rs. 1,479, in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Beer and Ale.

In casks.—This article is exclusively supplied from the United Kingdom. There is an increase of hectolitres 58 in quantity and of Rs. 1,600 in value, as compared with 1905.

In bottles.—The imports for 1906 showed a decrease of litres 8,148, with a shortage in value of Rs. 1,057, due to less supplies from France, Germany, Denmark, and Holland. The United Kingdom showed an increase of litres 1,285, with a surplus of Rs. 2,650 in value. Norway and Austria provided a few litres in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Bicycles.

The imports for 1906 amounted to 140 bicycles, of the value of Rs. 13,814, against 92, of the value of Rs. 10,431, in 1905, showing an increase of 48 in number and of Rs. 3,383 in value. The United Kingdom showed an increase of 51 in number, with a surplus of Rs. 3,942 in value, while from France there was a decrease of three in number and of Rs. 559 in value.

Bichloride of Mercury.

The imports for 1906 showed a decrease both in weight of kilos 654 and in value of Rs. 2,686, due to less imports from the United Kingdom.

Bran.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 2,018,323, of the value of Rs. 191,915, against kilos 2,096,015, of the value of Rs. 189,322, showing a decrease of kilos 77,692 in weight, but a surplus in value of Rs. 2,593. Australia showed an increase both in weight of kilos 33,082 and in value of Rs. 3,476. From Continental India there was a decrease of kilos 60,958 in weight, but a surplus in value of Rs. 5,546. The Argentine Republic supplied kilos 49,816, of the value of Rs. 6,429 in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Bricks and Tiles.

The imports for 1906 showed an increase, both in quantity of 181,983 and in value of Rs. 12,459, due principally to more imports from the United Kingdom, which supplied 151,617 bricks more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 11,612. France and Natal provided for Rs. 323 and Rs. 657, respectively, in 1906, against nil in the previous year, while Belgium provided for Rs. 133 in 1905, against nil in the past year.

Butter.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 20,895, of the value of Rs. 52,714, against kilos 74,670, of the value of Rs. 135,627, in 1905, showing a substantial decrease of kilos 53,775 in weight and of Rs. 82,913 in value. The decreases are from Australia (Rs. 78,110), Denmark (Rs. 2,944), France (Rs. 2,333), Italy (Rs. 561), and Holland (Rs. 1,030). The United States provided for Rs. 1,294 in 1905, against nil in 1906. Germany provided for Rs. 2,438 in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Cabinet and Upholstery Wares.

The imports for 1906 showed a decrease of Rs. 15,721, as compared with 1905. Decreases are from the United Kingdom (Rs. 3,851), Continental India, Singapore, Austria (Rs. 2,465), China, France (Rs. 9,393), Germany, the United States, Seychelles, and Madagascar.

Camphor.

Crude.—The imports for 1906 showed an increase, both in weight of kilos 1,395 and in value of Rs. 7,786, due principally to more imports from Continental India.

Candles.

Composition.—The imports for 1906 showed a decrease of kilos 29,072 in weight and of Rs. 16,882 in value. Decreases were from France (Rs. 14,485), United Kingdom (Rs. 2,313), Belgium (Rs. 674). Continental India showed an increase of Rs. 2,693. Holland provided for Rs. 2,104 in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Caoutchouc and India-rubber.

Manufactured.—This article is exclusively supplied from the United Kingdom. The imports for 1906 showed an increase of kilos 1,800 in weight and of Rs. 14,942 in value.

Carriages.

Eleven carriages, of the value of Rs. 6,146, were imported in 1906, against one, valued Rs. 662, which was imported from France in 1905. The supply for 1906 was as follows:—

From the United Kingdom—	3,	valued	Rs. 2,725
„ France	4,	„	Rs. 1,742
„ United States	4,	„	Rs. 1,679

Carts and Waggons.

In 1905 the undermentioned countries supplied 29 waggons, of the value of Rs. 38,706, against nil in 1906:—

United Kingdom	18	valued	Rs. 34,540
Germany	10	„	Rs. 3,880
France	1	„	Rs. 286
Total	29		38,706

Casts of Statues and Busts.

Two hundred and fifty-one, of the value of Rs. 2,067, were received from France in 1906, against 685, of the value of Rs. 5,079, received in 1905 from France, Germany, and Holland. The decrease was of Rs. 3,012 in value due principally to imports from France.

Cement.

The imports for 1906 showed an increase both in weight of kilos 219,528 and in value of Rs. 16,604, due principally to more imports from the United Kingdom (Rs. 17,883) and from France (Rs. 2,453). From Belgium there was a decrease of Rs. 2,741.

Cheese.

Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed a decrease of kilos 8,250 in weight and of Rs. 8,698 in value, due to the United Kingdom, Germany, and Holland which showed decreases of Rs. 1,950, Rs. 1,070, and Rs. 7,094, respectively. France showed an increase of Rs. 364.

Chocolate and Cocoa.

The imports for 1906 showed an increase both in weight of kilos 2,494 and in value of Rs. 3,571 over the imports for 1905, due principally to the United Kingdom and France, which provided for surplus values of Rs. 1,121 and Rs. 1,288, respectively, over the previous year.

Choorah.

In 1906 Continental India supplied kilos 10,485 more than in 1905, with a surplus in value of Rs. 1,953.

Clocks and Watches.

The imports for 1906 showed a decrease of 5,467 pieces with a falling off in value of Rs. 14,075, due chiefly to the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Switzerland, which provided for Rs. 1,161, Rs. 6,983, Rs. 855, and Rs. 5,489, respectively, less than in 1905. From the United States there was an increase of Rs. 493.

Coals.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 48,945,018 of the value of Rs. 1,788,351, against for 1905 kilos 44,903,493 of the value of Rs. 1,247,563, showing an increase both in weight of kilos 4,041,525 and in value of Rs. 540,788. From the United Kingdom and Australia kilos 5,638,445 and kilos 4,011,108 more were imported in 1906 with surplus in value of Rs. 545,609 and Rs. 86,081, respectively, while from Continental India kilos 6,257,252 less were received with a shrinkage in value of Rs. 108,559; from Belgium kilos 20,320, of the value of Rs. 790, were received in 1906 against nil in 1905. Natal supplied kilos 628,904, of the value of Rs. 16,868, in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Coffee.

The imports for 1906 showed, as compared with 1905, a shrinkage both in weight of kilos 67,089 and in value of Rs. 39,881. Decreases are from Continental India, Ceylon, and Brazil, which provided for Rs. 34,000, Rs. 763, and Rs. 12,591, respectively. The United States provided for Rs. 5,137 in 1905, against nil in 1906. Java provided for Rs. 6,276 more than in 1905, while Singapore and Pondichery supplied for the value of Rs. 4,681 and Rs. 1,145, respectively, in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Confectionery.

The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 82,262, against Rs. 80,279 in 1905, showing a surplus of Rs. 1,983. Slight increases were noted under Continental India (Rs. 443), France (Rs. 2,284), Switzerland (Rs. 367), Réunion (Rs. 659), and Seychelles. Austria provided for Rs. 5,825 in 1905, against nil in 1906. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 5,564), Holland, Belgium, and China. Australia and Réunion provided for Rs. 9,088 and Rs. 659, respectively, in 1906, against nil in 1905. Small supplies were received from Spain, Turkey, Egypt, and Singapore in 1906.

Copperah or Poonac.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 27,405, of the value of Rs. 1,959, against kilos 996, of the value of Rs. 272, in 1905, showing an increase both in weight of kilos 26,409 and in value of Rs. 1,687. This article is exclusively imported from Seychelles.

Copper.

Yellow.—The imports for 1906 showed an increase of kilos 1,783 in weight and of Rs. 2,553 in value as compared with 1905. The imports were exclusively from the United Kingdom.

Old.—The imports for 1906 showed an increase both in weight of kilos 4,155 and in value of Rs. 2,585 as compared with 1905. The United Kingdom provided for a surplus of Rs. 4,298 in 1906, while France provided for Rs. 1,713 in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Sheets and Nails, red.—Compared with the previous year, the supplies for 1906 showed an increase both in weight of kilos 2,420 and in value of Rs. 6,606. The United Kingdom provided for a surplus of Rs. 7,027, while France showed a shrinkage of Rs. 421.

Cordage.

Coir.—Kilos 78,775, of the value of Rs. 16,954, were imported in 1906, the whole quantity from Continental India, which provided for Rs. 6,833 less than in 1905. The United Kingdom and Hong Kong supplied Rs. 438 and Rs. 3,672, respectively, in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Oiled.—Kilos 5,787 less were received in 1906 than in the previous year, giving a falling off of Rs. 3,384 in value.

Hemp.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 31,680, of the value of Rs. 20,836, against kilos 30,902, of the value of Rs. 15,601, in 1905, showing an increase both in weight of kilos 778 and in value of Rs. 5,235, due chiefly to Continental India which provided for Rs. 7,350 more than in 1905. Decreases were noted from the United Kingdom (Rs. 852) and Hong Kong (Rs. 1).

Hemp, oiled.—Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed a decrease both in weight of kilos 6,056 and in value of Rs. 2,703. The United Kingdom showed a shrinkage of Rs. 431, while Continental India and France provided for Rs. 1,414 and Rs. 858, respectively, in 1905, against nil in the past year.

Cordials and Liquors.

Litres 8,340, of the value of Rs. 21,485, were imported in 1906, against litres 6,794, of the value of Rs. 21,072, in 1905. There was an increase both in quantity of litres 1,546 and in value of Rs. 413, due to slight increases from the United Kingdom, China, and Spain. Slight decreases were noted from France, Holland, and Germany.

Corks and Bungs.

Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed a decrease both in number of 2,277,255 corks and in value of Rs. 5,849, due specially to France which provided for Rs. 6,577 less than in the previous year. From Spain 100,000 corks, of the value of Rs. 487, were received in 1905, against nil in 1906, while from the United Kingdom 493,896 corks more were received, with a surplus in value of Rs. 1,197.

Corn, Grain, and Meal.

Barley.—The imports for 1906 showed, when compared with 1905, a decrease both in quantity of kilos 27,585 and in value

of Rs. 2,859, due specially to less supplies from Continental India which provided for Rs. 2,494 less than in the previous year. From the United Kingdom kilos 304, of the value of Rs. 365, were received in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Beans.—Kilos 148,958, of the value of Rs. 20,195 were received in 1906 against kilos 118,159, of the value of Rs. 19,306 in 1905. There was an increase both in weight of kilos 30,799 and in value of Rs. 889. Continental India, China, and France provided for Rs. 5,300, Rs. 1,978, and Rs. 1,956, respectively, more than in 1905. Decreases were noted from Réunion (Rs. 6,849), the United Kingdom (Rs. 876), Madagascar and Australia.

Dholl.—Decrease both in weight of kilos 492,378 and in value of Rs. 40,850.

Gram.—Decrease both in weight of kilos 974,856 and in value of Rs. 84,265.

Lentils.—Decrease both in weight of kilos 54,920 and in value of Rs. 13,472.

Dholl, gram, and lentils were received from Continental India during the two years. Only 20 kilos lentils, of the value of Rs. 5, were received from France in 1905.

Maize.—Only 350 kilos, of the value of Rs. 35, were received from Sandalwood in 1906. In 1905 Continental India and Madagascar supplied kilos 790, of the value of Rs. 56, and kilos 30,758, of the value of Rs. 2,864, respectively. There was, therefore, a decrease in the importation of kilos 31,198 in weight and of Rs. 2,885 in value.

Oats.—Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed a decrease both in weight of kilos 920,649 and in value of Rs. 107,881. From Australia there was a falling off in weight of kilos 679,798, with a shortage in value of Rs. 81,190. The United Kingdom and the Argentine Confederation supplied kilos 1,740, of the value of Rs. 343, and kilos 400,000, of the value of Rs. 43,680, respectively, in 1905, against nil in the past year. From Continental India there was an increase of kilos 160,889, with a surplus in value of Rs. 17,332.

Peas.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 133,017, of the value of Rs. 24,450, against kilos 203,164 of the value of Rs. 33,584 for 1905. The decrease was of kilos 70,147 in weight and of Rs. 9,134 in value. The decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 1,036), Continental India (Rs. 1,085), France (Rs. 1,023), Madagascar (Rs. 5,445), and Réunion.

Rice.—Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed a large increase both in weight of kilos 9,072,147 and in value of Rs. 1,281,946, accounted for as under:—

Continental India.—Excess of kilos 6,643,383 in weight and of Rs. 1,003,146 in value.

China.—Excess of kilos 71,737 in weight and of Rs. 10,692 in value.

Madagascar.—Excess of kilos 5,382 in weight and of Rs. 1,432 in value.

Straits Settlements.—Shortage of kilos 206,580 in weight and of Rs. 30,636 in value.

Cochinchina.—Supplied kilos 2,251,500, of the value of Rs. 256,443, in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Singapore.—Supplied kilos 306,725, of the value of Rs. 40,869, in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Wheat.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos. 410,669, of the value of Rs. 46,643, out of which quantity Continental India supplied kilos 406,785, of the value of Rs. 46,436, and Delagoa Bay, kilos 3,884, of the value of Rs. 207. In 1905, wheat was exclusively imported from Continental India, which supplied kilos 432,000, of the value of Rs. 46,382. There was, therefore, a decrease in the importation of kilos 21,331 in weight, but a surplus in value of Rs. 261 as compared with the previous year.

Wheat Flour.—The imports for 1906 showed an increase both in weight of kilos 3,906,151 and in value of Rs. 576,613, due to more supplies from Australia (Rs. 563,830), Continental India (Rs. 12,322), and France (Rs. 483). From China there was a slight decrease amounting to Rs. 23.

Cotton Manufactures.

Coloured.—The imports for 1906 amounted to metres 5,454,328, of the value of Rs. 831,121, against 3,729,454 metres, of the value of Rs. 703,842, in 1905, showing an increase, both in measure of metres 1,724,874 and in value of Rs. 127,279, due chiefly to the United Kingdom which supplied metres 1,896,911 more, with an excess in value of Rs. 187,512. Decreases were noted from Continental India (Rs. 2,663), Belgium (Rs. 5,067), France (Rs. 12,748), Germany (Rs. 23,164), Pondichery (Rs. 6,291), Switzerland (Rs. 7,828), and Hong Kong. Slight increases were noted from Italy, China, and Japan.

Hosiery.—The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 35,376, against Rs. 29,523 for 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 5,853, due to more supplies from the United Kingdom (Rs. 914), Germany (Rs. 6,919), Continental India, and China. From France there was a falling off of Rs. 2,235.

Plain.—The imports for 1906 amounted to metres 4,937,394, of the value of Rs. 862,577, against metres 5,252,590, of the value of Rs. 704,581, for 1905, showing a decrease in measure of metres 315,196, but a surplus in value of Rs. 157,996, due to supplies from the United Kingdom which provided metres 4,437,853, of the value of Rs. 790,018, in 1906, against metres 4,748,177, of the value of Rs. 628,211, in 1905, showing a shortage of metres 310,324 in measure, but a surplus of Rs. 161,807 in value. France supplied metres 45,276 more.

with a surplus of Rs. 3,408 in value. Continental India supplied metres 51,259 less with a shortage in value of Rs. 6,776. Slight decreases were noted from Germany and Belgium. Holland and Pondichery provided for Rs. 863 and Rs. 185, respectively, in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Thread for Sewing.—Kilos 106 more were imported in 1906, but there was a decrease of Rs. 7,965 in the value of the importation. The United Kingdom supplied kilos 549 more than in 1905, but with a falling off in value of Rs. 5,382. France, Belgium, and Germany provided for Rs. 1,081, Rs. 1,441, and Rs. 61, respectively, in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Waste.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 6,610, of the value of Rs. 2,589, received from the United Kingdom, against, for the previous year, kilos 20,458, of the value of Rs. 7,498, showing a decrease both in weight of kilos 13,848 and in value of Rs. 4,909, due chiefly to the United Kingdom which supplied kilos 13,128 less, giving a shortage of Rs. 4,656 in value. In 1905 Continental India supplied kilos 720, of the value of Rs. 253, against nil in 1906.

Wool.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 4,962, of the value of Rs. 1,695, received from Continental India against kilos 14,706, of the value of Rs. 8,065, for 1905, showing a shortage in weight of kilos 9,744 and in value of Rs. 6,370, due chiefly to Continental India which supplied kilos 7,552 less with a decrease of Rs. 3,090 in value. The United Kingdom supplied kilos 2,182, of the value of Rs. 3,276, in 1905, against nil in the past year.

Earthen and China Wares.

The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 61,886, against Rs. 97,438 for 1905, showing a decrease of Rs. 35,552. Decreases were from France (Rs. 36,111), Germany (Rs. 4,021), Continental India (Rs. 955), China (Rs. 503), and Belgium. The United Kingdom and Austria showed increases of Rs. 370 and Rs. 4,597, respectively.

Fireworks.

The imports for 1906 showed, as compared with 1905, an increase of Rs. 2,221, due chiefly to China, which provided for Rs. 2,126 more than in the previous year. Slight increase was noted from Germany.

Fish.

Dried or Salted.—Kilos 600,222, of the value of Rs. 186,448, were imported in 1906, against kilos 650,109, of the value of Rs. 152,751 in 1905. There was a decrease in weight of kilos 49,887 but a surplus in value of Rs. 33,697, due chiefly to Continental India, which supplied kilos 48,764 less but a surplus of Rs. 11,236 in value, also to Nova Scotia which supplied kilos 127 less with a surplus in value of Rs. 711.

Decreases were noted from the United Kingdom (Rs. 1,525), Seychelles, France (Rs. 3,552), Madagascar (Rs. 6,799), Newfoundland (Rs. 1,676), and the United States (Rs. 5,235). Cape Colonies and China provided kilos 46,638 and kilos 1,059 more, with surplus values of Rs. 39,875 and Rs. 387, respectively, Zanzibar and Canada provided for Rs. 573 and Rs. 1,257 in 1905, against nil in the past year, while Holland, Norway, and Réunion provided for Rs. 1,625, Rs. 382, and Rs. 159, respectively, in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Pickled.—Kilos 15,950 more were received in 1906, giving a surplus of Rs. 2,195 in value, due chiefly to the United States, which supplied kilos 44,330 more with an increase of Rs. 12,057 in value. Decreases are from the United Kingdom (Rs. 1,956), France (Rs. 1,067) and Nova Scotia, which supplied kilos 6,669 less with a shortage in value of Rs. 4,187. From Canada kilos 11,610, of the value of Rs. 2,502, were received in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Flowers.

Artificial.—The imports for 1906 showed, when compared with 1905, a decrease of Rs. 717, due to less supplies from France. The United Kingdom showed a small increase.

Fruits.

Almonds, dried.—Kilos 9,226, of the value of Rs. 4,436, were received in 1906, against kilos 6,627, of the value of Rs. 3,299 in 1905. There was an increase of kilos 2,599 in weight and of Rs. 1,137 in value, due chiefly to more imports from Continental India.

Cocoanuts.—Exclusively supplied from Seychelles, the imports for 1906 show that 273,475 cocoanuts less were received, with a shortage in value of Rs. 3,067.

Fresh.—The imports for 1906 show an increase of Rs. 5,253 in value, due chiefly to Cape Colony, which provided for Rs. 7,379 in 1906, against nil in the previous year. From Seychelles there was a decrease of Rs. 1,259.

Pistachio nuts.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 5,238, of the value of Rs. 866, against kilos 37,175, of the value of Rs. 8,244, showing a decrease of kilos 31,937 in weight and of Rs. 7,378 in value, due chiefly to less imports from Madagascar, which provided for a short value of Rs. 7,269.

Raisins.—Kilos 10,300, of the value of Rs. 3,718, were received in 1906, against kilos 20,443, of the value of Rs. 8,568, in 1905. The decrease was of kilos 10,143 in weight and of Rs. 4,850 in value, due chiefly to Cape Colony, which provided for Rs. 3,520 less than in 1905. Continental India and France showed also decreases of Rs. 1,482 and Rs. 364, respectively, while the United Kingdom showed an increase of Rs. 518.

Of other sorts.—The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 5,962, against Rs. 3,290 for 1905, showing an increase of

Rs. 2,672, due chiefly to France, which provided for Rs. 2,145 more than in 1905. Cape Colony supplied for Rs. 267 in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Ghee.

This article is exclusively supplied from Continental India which in 1906 provided kilos 32,999 more than in the previous year, giving a surplus in value of Rs. 41,485.

Glassware.

22,933 pieces less were received than in 1905, with a shortage of Rs. 18,575 in value. Decreases were from France (Rs. 14,383), Germany (Rs. 8,948), Austria (Rs. 422) and China. The United Kingdom supplied 18,733 pieces more with an excess of Rs. 4,243 in value.

Glue.

Compared with the previous year, kilos 2,611 less were received in 1906, with a falling off of Rs. 1,608 in value, due to decreases from the United Kingdom (Rs. 505) and France (Rs. 1,059).

Grease-Cart.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 85,613, of the value of Rs. 13,199, against kilos 61,751, of the value of Rs. 7,564, for 1905, showing an increase of kilos 23,862 in weight and of Rs. 5,635 in value.

The United Kingdom supplied kilos 16,466 more than in 1905, with a surplus of Rs. 2,774 in value. Kilos 7,396 of the value of Rs. 2,861 were received from the United States in 1906 against nil in 1905.

Groceries.

The value of the imports for 1906 was Rs. 26,712, against Rs. 21,856 for 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 4,856, due chiefly to more supplies received from the United Kingdom and Continental India, amounting to Rs. 3,161 and Rs. 1,396 respectively.

Haberdashery.

The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 613,311, against Rs. 535,828 for 1905, showing an excess of Rs. 77,483, due to increases from the United Kingdom (Rs. 18,383), Continental India (Rs. 11,201), China (Rs. 1,310), France (Rs. 56,787) and Japan (Rs. 487). Decreases were noted from Belgium (Rs. 374), Germany (Rs. 1,345), Holland (Rs. 5,405), Switzerland (Rs. 2,395), Pondichery (Rs. 469) and the United States (Rs. 285).

Hardware and Cutlery.

The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 1,021,629, against Rs. 564,804 for 1905, showing the large increase of Rs. 456,825, due chiefly to more supplies from the United Kingdom amounting to Rs. 430,510. There were increases

also from Belgium (Rs. 23,462), the United States (Rs. 9,792), Continental India (Rs. 298), Austria (Rs. 860), China (Rs. 294), Germany (Rs. 301), Sweden and Switzerland. Decreases are from France (Rs. 8,628), Australia, Denmark, and Holland.

Hats.

Felt.—11,242 hats, of the value of Rs. 17,103, were received in 1906, against 9,535 hats, of the value of Rs. 15,646, in 1905, with an increase of 1,707 hats and of Rs. 1,457 in value over the previous year, due to more supplies from Austria (Rs. 523), France (Rs. 697) and Italy (Rs. 1,384). From the United Kingdom there was a falling off of Rs. 1,044.

Silk.—The imports for 1906 amounted to 34 hats, of the value of Rs. 260, supplied exclusively from the United Kingdom, against for the previous year 149 hats, of the value of Rs. 1,224, out of which 145, valued Rs. 1,211, were received from the United Kingdom and the remainder from Continental India. There was, therefore, a shrinkage from the United Kingdom of 111 in number, with a shortage of Rs. 951 in value.

Straw.—The imports for 1906 amounted to 53,252 hats, of the value of Rs. 47,090, against 60,117, of the value of Rs. 40,084, in 1905, showing a decrease of 6,865 in number, with an increase of Rs. 7,006 in value, due chiefly to the importation from Madagascar, which supplied only 2,159 hats, of the value of Rs. 2,371 in 1906, against 24,026 hats, of the value of Rs. 3,955 in 1905, showing a shortage of 21,867 hats, with a decrease of Rs. 1,584 only. The United Kingdom supplied 19,932 more hats with an increase of Rs. 15,322 in value, while from France 4,198 less hats were received, giving a shortage of Rs. 5,529 in value.

Of other sorts.—The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 6,457, against Rs. 5,625 for 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 832, due chiefly to the United Kingdom, which provided for Rs. 1,588 more than in 1905. Decreases were noted from France (Rs. 441) and Continental India (Rs. 157). China and Italy supplied small quantities in 1905 against nil in 1906.

Hay and Straw.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 10,104, of the value of Rs. 1,252, against kilos 181,721, of the value of Rs. 31,473 in 1905, showing a decrease of kilos 171,617 in weight, and of Rs. 30,221 in value, due chiefly to the importation from the Argentine Confederation which supplied kilos 170,250, of the value of Rs. 29,837 in 1905, against nil in 1906. From Australia there was a small decrease amounting to Rs. 391.

Hemp.

Undressed.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 13,377, of the value of Rs. 12,439, against kilos 10,023, of the value

of Rs. 8,777 in 1905, showing an increase of kilos 3,354 in weight, and of Rs. 3,662 in value, due chiefly to the United Kingdom, which supplied kilos 3,511 more, with a surplus of Rs. 3,765 in value. France, however, showed a falling off of Rs. 103.

Hides

Raw and Salted.—None received in 1906, against kilos 5,807, of the value of Rs. 5,457 from Madagascar in the previous year.

Tanned.—The imports for 1906 showed an increase of kilos 371, and of Rs. 2,160 in value, as compared with 1905. The increase was from Continental India (Rs. 2,984), while a decrease was shown from Pondichery amounting to Rs. 810.

India Rubber Wares.

The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 24,542, against Rs. 15,669 for 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 8,873, due to more imports from the United Kingdom and from France, which provided for surplus values amounting to Rs. 5,351 and Rs. 3,536 respectively.

Iron.

Bars.—Kilos 705,755, of the value of Rs. 86,974, were received in 1906, against kilos 665,273, of the value of Rs. 75,548 in 1905. There was, therefore, an increase of kilos 40,482 in weight, and of Rs. 11,426 in value. The United Kingdom supplied kilos 62,087 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 13,100, while from Belgium there was a shrinkage of kilos 22,761 in weight and of Rs. 1,570 in value.

Nails.—Kilos 186,445, of the value of Rs. 49,931, were imported in 1906, against kilos 158,827, of the value of Rs. 40,695 in 1905. There was an increase both in weight of kilos 27,618 and in value of Rs. 9,236. The United Kingdom supplied kilos 20,844 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 8,068. Small increases were noted from Belgium (Rs. 133), France (Rs. 270) and Germany (Rs. 2,035). From Continental India there was a decrease of Rs. 1,270.

Pig.—Exclusively imported from the United Kingdom, which supplied kilos 48,768 more in weight, with a surplus of Rs. 3,782 in value, as compared with the importation for 1905.

Iron sheets.—The United Kingdom supplied kilos 123,024 less, with a shortage in value of Rs. 3,589, as compared with 1905. Kilos 1,345, valued Rs. 224, were received from Belgium in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Wrought of other sorts.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 490,076, of the value of Rs. 108,702, against, for 1905, kilos 1,080,201, of the value of Rs. 173,389, showing a decrease of kilos 590,125 in weight and of Rs. 64,687 in value, due to

the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Germany, which provided for less values of Rs. 62,242, Rs. 1,492 and Rs. 897 respectively.

Jams, Jellies, and Marmalade.

Kilos 11,756, of the value of Rs. 7,184, were imported in 1906, against kilos 14,704, of the value of Rs. 8,986 in 1905. There was a decrease both in weight of kilos 2,948 and in value of Rs. 1,802, due to short supplies from the United Kingdom and Australia.

Jewellery.

Compared with the previous year, the imports for 1906 showed a decrease of Rs. 17,794. France showed a decrease of Rs. 21,321. Increases were, however, noted from the United Kingdom and Continental India amounting to Rs. 2,767 and Rs. 804 respectively.

Juice of Lemon or Lime.

Hectolitres 201.42, of the value of Rs. 2,539, were received in 1906, against hectolitres 8.75, of the value of Rs. 831, in 1905. There was, therefore, an increase of hectolitres 192.67 in measure and of Rs. 1,708 in value, due chiefly to the United Kingdom which supplied hectolitres 192.65 more, with a surplus of Rs. 1,696 in value.

Lard.

Compared with the previous year the imports for 1906 showed a decrease of kilos 78,019 in weight and of Rs. 3,609 in value. China, Continental India and the United States showed decreases of Rs. 22,162, Rs. 8,306, and Rs. 4,134 respectively. Increases were noted from Australia, (Rs. 10,694) and France (Rs. 25,190). Denmark provided for Rs. 5,035 in 1905, against nil in the past year.

Lead.

Sheets and Pipes.—Kilos 45,432, of the value of Rs. 12,440, were received in 1906, against, for the previous year, kilos 65,004, of the value of Rs. 9,105. There was accordingly a decrease of kilos 19,572 in weight, but an increase of Rs. 3,335 in the value of the importation, due chiefly to supplies from the United Kingdom.

Leather.

Wrought: Boots and Shoes.—Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed that 1,459 pairs more were received with, however, a shortage of Rs. 16,289 in the value of importation. From the United Kingdom and from France there were received 2,462 pairs and 1,005 pairs less, with decreases in value of Rs. 17,429 and Rs. 3,510 respectively. From Continental India 3,932 pairs more were received, with a surplus.

of Rs. 2,183 only in value. The United States supplied 183 pairs more, with an increase of Rs. 1,930 in value; 549 pairs of the value of Rs. 401, were received in 1906 from Pondichery, against nil in 1905.

Sole.—Kilos 6,144, of the value of Rs. 11,066, were received in 1906, against kilos 11,569, of the value of Rs. 18,119, in 1905, giving a decrease of kilos 5,425 in weight and of Rs. 7,053 in value, due almost exclusively to short supplies from Australia.

Wrought, of other sorts.—The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 74,799, against Rs. 61,023 in 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 13,776. Increases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 4,960), Germany (Rs. 1,508), and France (Rs. 7,615).

Lime.

Phosphate.—In 1906 there were received from Belgium kilos 30,900, of the value of Rs. 4,628, against in 1905, kilos 127,397, of the value of Rs. 17,148, imported from France. The decrease was of kilos 96,497 in weight and of Rs. 12,520 in value.

Superphosphate.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 484,523, of the value of Rs. 33,318, against, for the previous year, kilos 201,600, of the value of Rs. 9,766, showing an increase of kilos 282,923 in weight and of Rs. 23,552 in value.

Linen Manufactures.

Canvas.—Kilos 23,981, of the value of Rs. 28,898, were received in 1906, against kilos 12,548, of the value of Rs. 22,364, in 1905. There was an increase of kilos 11,433 in weight and of Rs. 6,534 in value—From the United Kingdom there were received kilos 12,808 more, with a surplus of Rs. 8,523 in value, while France supplied kilos 1,535, of the value of Rs. 2,043, in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Machinery and Millwork.

Machinery and Mill-work.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 681,625, of the value of Rs. 410,038, against kilos 535,721, of the value of Rs. 268,428, in 1905, showing an increase of kilos 145,904 in weight and of Rs. 141,610 in value. There were received from the United Kingdom kilos 130,925 more, with a surplus of Rs. 131,161 in value. France supplied kilos 5,752 more, with an increase of Rs. 6,614 in value. Kilos 1,632 less were received from Belgium with a shortage of Rs. 665 in value. Germany supplied kilos 11,641, of the value of Rs. 7,831, in 1906, against nil in 1905, while the United States supplied kilos 782, of the value of Rs. 3,332, in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Machinery consisting of Automobiles, Steam Road Engines, Locomotives, Waggon and Trucks, Rails and accessories and Wire Rope for Agricultural purposes.

The imports under this heading for 1906 amounted to kilos 2,095,676, of the value of Rs. 333,308, and those for 1905 aggregated Rs. 238,218 made up of Rs. 44,466, value of four locomotives, and Rs. 193,752, value of kilos 1,378,999 of machinery, consisting of tramway materials, accessories, wire rope, &c. The increase was of Rs. 95,090 in value.

The following is a comparative statement of the amount imported from each country, with the rate of importation for the two years 1905 and 1906:—

	1905.		1906.	
	Value.	Rate.	Value.	Rate.
	Rs.	Per cent.	Rs.	Per cent.
Germany	151,488	63·6	251,419	75·5
Belgium	42,795	18·0	66,796	20·0
France	18,021	7·5	15,093	4·5
United Kingdom	25,914	10·0	—	—

From the above table it will be seen that German goods head the list and that no goods were imported from the United Kingdom in 1906.

Manure.

Guano.—Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed a shrinkage of kilos 167,181 in weight and of Rs. 13,100 in value. The United Kingdom and Seychelles showed decrease of kilos 85,911 and kilos 81,280 in weight and of Rs. 11,189 in value.

Of other sorts.—Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed a decrease in weight of kilos 529,144 and in value of Rs. 37,890. The Argentine Republic, Belgium, Ceylon and Holland provided for Rs. 63,070, Rs. 8,676, Rs. 3,058, and Rs. 8,407 respectively in 1905, against nil in 1906. Germany on the other hand, supplied kilos 88,708, of the value of Rs. 12,806 in 1906, against nil in the previous year. Increases were noted from the United Kingdom (Rs. 6,841), Continental India (Rs. 5,476), and France (Rs. 20,196).

Margarine.

The imports for 1906 showed a shrinkage both in weight of kilos 4,962 and in value of Rs. 3,624. Decreases were noted from the United Kingdom (Rs. 1,871), Germany (Rs. 2,300)

and the United States (Rs. 5,184). Increases were from Denmark (Rs. 371) and Holland (Rs. 5,490).

Matches.

28,801 gross less were received in 1906, with a shortage in value of Rs. 24,159. Decreases were noted from Japan (Rs. 22,721) and Austria (Rs. 3,391). From Sweden there was an increase of Rs. 1,568.

Mats and Matting.

The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 9,134, against Rs. 2,613 for 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 6,521, due specially to more supplies from China amounting to Rs. 5,231. Singapore provided for Rs. 753 in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Meat.

Fresh Frozen.—The value of the imports for 1906 as compared with 1905, gave the following result:—

Carcases—

Cows and Oxen—Increase of Rs. 50,977 in value.

Sheep—Decrease of Rs. 7,725 in value.

Swine—None imported in 1905, against Rs. 4,226 in value in the past year.

Military Articles.

The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 694,987, against Rs. 1,062,000 in 1905, showing a decrease of Rs. 367,013, due to the United Kingdom and Continental India, which showed decreases of Rs. 270,248 and Rs. 100,387 respectively. The United States provided for Rs. 3,622 in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Motor Cars.

Eight, valued Rs. 29,452, were received in 1906, against five, valued Rs. 18,603, in 1905. There was an increase of three in number with a surplus of Rs. 10,849 in value. Two motor cars were received in each of the years 1905 and 1906 from the United Kingdom, with a shortage of Rs. 2,626 in value for the year 1906. France provided three motor cars more, giving an increase in value of Rs. 13,475.

Musical Instruments.

The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 13,576, against Rs. 27,304 for 1905, showing a decrease of Rs. 13,728, due chiefly to France which supplied for a less value of Rs. 10,754. Small decreases were noted from the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States

Oil.

Castor.—438,361 kilos, of the value of Rs. 156,254, were received in 1906, against kilos 381,032 of the value of Rs. 114,920 in 1905, showing an increase both in weight of kilos 57,329 and of Rs. 41,334 in value.

Castor oil is exclusively received from Continental India.

Cocanut.—The imports for 1906 amounted to hectolitres 2,101, of the value of Rs. 51,297, against hectolitres 4,948, of the value of Rs. 97,698, showing a decrease of hectolitres 2,847 in measure and of Rs. 46,401, due almost exclusively to short supplies from Seychelles.

Gingely.—Kilos 62,052, of the value of Rs. 22,470, were imported in 1906, against kilos 190,176, of the value of Rs. 60,300, in 1905. There was therefore a decrease of kilos 128,124 in weight and of Rs. 37,830 in value, due chiefly to Continental India, which supplied kilos 127,524 less, with a shortage of Rs. 37,567 in value. A small decrease was also noted from China.

Linseed.—Hectolitres 928, of the value of Rs. 27,908, were received in 1906, against hectolitres 1,426, of the value of Rs. 36,254, in 1905, giving a decrease for 1906 of hectolitres 498 in measure and of Rs. 8,346 in value, due to short supplies from the United Kingdom.

Mustard.—Exclusively received from Continental India, the imports for 1906 showed, when compared with 1905, a decrease of kilos 101,990 in weight but an increase of Rs. 1,311 in value.

Petroleum.—The imports for 1906 showed an increase of hectolitres 5,537 in measure but a shortage of Rs. 5,279 in the value of the importation. The United States supplied hectolitres 3,599 more, with, however, a shortage of Rs. 51,502 in value. Borneo and Sumatra supplied respectively hectolitres 1,282, of the value of Rs. 14,428, and hectolitres 2,945, of the value of Rs. 48,094, in 1906, against nil in 1905. Russia supplied hectolitres 2,280, of the value of Rs. 36,098 in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Pistachio.—Kilos, 19,632 less were received in 1906, with, however, a surplus of Rs. 2,049 in value, due chiefly to Continental India, which supplied kilos 23,519 less, with a surplus of Rs. 593 in value. Pondichery showed a decrease of kilos 8,776 in weight and of Rs. 3,173 in value. From China and Japan there were received kilos 11,655, of the value of Rs. 4,284, and kilos 1,008, of the value of Rs. 345, respectively, in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Of other sorts.—Hectolitres 712, with a surplus of Rs. 38,894, were received in 1906 more than in 1905, due to the United States, which showed an increase of Rs. 43,303. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 10,993) and Continental India (Rs. 5,237).

Onions and Garlic.

Kilos 67,978 less, with a shortage of Rs. 4,485 in value, were received in 1906, due chiefly to short supplies from Continental India.

Opium, Crude.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 1,137, of the value of Rs. 29,108, against kilos 1,593, of the value of Rs. 41,442 in 1905, showing a decrease both in weight of kilos 456 and in value of Rs. 12,334. A decrease of kilos 505 in weight and of Rs. 13,452 in value was noted from Continental India. Turkey supplied kilos 54, of the value of Rs. 1,186 in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Painters' and Dyers' Colours and Materials.

The imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 102,774, against Rs. 87,502 for 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 15,272 in value. Increases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 15,051), Germany (Rs. 763), Australia and China. Slight decreases were noted from Continental India, France, and Switzerland.

Paper, Cigarette.

The imports for 1906 showed when compared with the previous year a decrease both in weight of kilos 1,994 and in value of Rs. 27,044, due principally to short supplies from France.

Paper.

Packing.—The imports of 1906 amounted to Rs. 27,801, against Rs. 24,372 for 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 3,429 in value. Increases were from France (Rs. 835) and the United Kingdom (Rs. 3,302), while a decrease of Rs. 528 was noted from Germany.

Printing.—Compared with 1905 the imports for 1906 showed an increase of Rs. 2,737 in value, due chiefly to more supplies from the United Kingdom.

Stained for hanging.—Decrease in value of Rs. 2,649. Belgium provided for Rs. 3,243 in 1905, against nil in 1906. Slight increases were, however, noted from the United Kingdom and France.

Perfumery.

Compared with the previous year the imports for 1906 showed an increase of Rs. 23,325 in value. Increases were from France (Rs. 18,565), the United Kingdom (Rs. 2,640), Continental India (Rs. 837) and China (Rs. 1,229).

Pitch and Tar.

Decrease of Rs. 2,598 in value, due to short supplies from the United Kingdom.

Pockets, Empty.

The imports for 1906 amounted to 588,700 pockets, of the value of Rs. 143,105, against 1,409,000 pockets, of the value of Rs. 256,269, for 1905, showing a decrease both in number of 820,300 and in value of Rs. 113,164. From Continental India there was a decrease of 821,000 in number and of Rs. 113,295 in value. The United Kingdom provided for Rs. 131 in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Pork, Salted.

Compared with 1905, the imports for 1906 showed an increase both in weight of kilos 3,615 and in value of Rs. 3,702, due to the United States, which supplied kilos 3,613 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 3,058.

Postal Parcels.

The value of postal parcels imported in 1906 amounted to Rs. 301,567, against, for the previous year, Rs. 263,199, showing an increase of Rs. 38,368. Increases were chiefly from the United Kingdom (Rs. 17,109), Continental India (Rs. 6,480), Egypt (Rs. 1,918), France (Rs. 20,726), and the United States (Rs. 789). Decreases were noted from Japan (Rs. 6,880) and Switzerland (Rs. 1,277).

Potash.

Nitrate of.—There was an increase both in weight of kilos 628,279 and in value of Rs. 121,077, due exclusively to more imports from Continental India. France supplied kilos 10,574, of the value of Rs. 3,708, in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Sulphate of.—There was an increase of kilos 227,133 in weight and of Rs. 15,345 in value. Increases were from Germany (Rs. 28,964), while decreases were noted under France (Rs. 9,337), and the United Kingdom (Rs. 9,981). The Cape Colonies provided for Rs. 5,599 in 1906, against nil in the previous year.

Potatoes.

Compared with 1905, the imports for the past year showed an increase both in weight of kilos 322,192 and in value of Rs. 25,888. Increases were from Continental India (Rs. 20,784), and France (Rs. 8,345). Decreases were noted from Australia (Rs. 636), and from Réunion (Rs. 1,435).

Prints and Engravings.

There was a decrease of Rs. 1,073, due to France, which provided for a less value of Rs. 3,023; from Germany there was an increase of Rs. 1,152.

Provisions, Preserved.

Compared with 1905, the value of the imports for 1906 showed a falling off of Rs. 19,722. Decreases were from the

United Kingdom (Rs. 8,512), Australia (Rs. 508), France (Rs. 6,902), Switzerland (Rs. 439), and the United States (Rs. 7,270). Slight increases were noted from China (Rs. 1,450) and Portugal (Rs. 4,930).

Rattans.

In 1906 rattans were received from Continental India and Singapore to the amount of kilos 16,217, of the value of Rs. 3,566, and kilos 38,087, of the value of Rs. 7,783, aggregating kilos 54,304, of the value of Rs. 11,349, against, for 1905, kilos 12,862, of the value of Rs. 3,358, received from China. There was, therefore, an increase of kilos 41,442 in weight and of Rs. 7,991 in value.

Rosin.

Decrease of kilos 12,153 in weight and of Rs. 1,512 in value. France provided for Rs. 1,369 in 1905, against nil in 1906; from Continental India there was a decrease of Rs. 678; an increase of Rs. 535 was noted from the United Kingdom.

Saddlery and Harness.

The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 5,823, against, for 1905, Rs. 12,290, showing a decrease of Rs. 6,467. The United Kingdom, Continental India, and France showed decreases of Rs. 4,030—Rs. 1,203—and Rs. 1,234 respectively.

Salt.

Compared with 1905, the imports for 1906 showed the large increase of kilos 4,343,743 in weight and of Rs. 146,413 in value. From the United Kingdom there was an increase of kilos 3,366,533 in weight and of Rs. 115,918 in value. Kilos 829,007, of the value of Rs. 24,172, and kilos 148,000, of the value of Rs. 6,312, were received in 1906 from Aden and France, against nil in 1905.

Seeds.

Coriander.—There was an increase of kilos 1,981 in weight and of Rs. 8,804 in value, due chiefly to Continental India, which provided for a surplus value of Rs. 8,580. A small increase of Rs. 225 was noted from Pondichery.

Garden.—The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 6,262, against Rs. 4,153 for 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 2,109 due to Ceylon, which provided for a surplus value of Rs. 2,972—from France there was a shrinkage of Rs. 656.

Mustard.—Increase both in weight of kilos 11,049 and in value of Rs. 2,684, due chiefly to Continental India, which supplied kilos 10,679 more, with a surplus of Rs. 2,585 in value.

Silk Manufactures.

Satin and Ribbons.—Metres 31,440, of the value of Rs. 26,464, were received in 1906, against metres 73,047, of the value of Rs. 56,299, in 1905. There was a decrease of metres 41,607, with a shortage of Rs. 29,835 in value. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 6,220), Continental India (Rs. 587), China (Rs. 59), France (Rs. 15,544), Germany (Rs. 756), Belgium (Rs. 570), Switzerland (Rs. 3,332), Japan (Rs. 2,367), and Italy. Pondichery provided for Rs. 406 in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Skin.

Sheep and Goats, tanned.—Decrease both in weight of kilos 1,382 and in value of Rs. 5,936, due chiefly to Pondichery, which provided for a less value of Rs. 8,186. Continental India supplied kilos 602, of the value of Rs. 2,250 in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Soap.

Ordinary.—Decrease of kilos 22,687 in weight and of Rs. 18,897 in value, due to short supplies from France (Rs. 1,105) and from the United Kingdom (Rs. 17,826).

Soda.

Caustic.—Kilos 6,395, of the value of Rs. 1,227, were received in 1906, against kilos 63,812, of the value of Rs. 12,921, in 1905. There was a decrease of kilos 57,417 in weight and of Rs. 11,694 in value. From the quantities mentioned there were received kilos 26,007 less than in 1905 (with a shortage of Rs. 5,185 in value) of caustic soda, imported for use in local manufactures and paying duty at the lower rate of 30 cents per 1,000 kilos.

Nitrate.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 1,361,495, of the value of Rs. 257,054, against, for the previous year, kilos 1,264,093, of the value of Rs. 218,753, showing an increase of kilos 97,402 in weight and of Rs. 38,301 in value, due chiefly to Chili, which provided for a surplus value of Rs. 28,040. In 1906 the United Kingdom supplied kilos 41,180, of the value of Rs. 10,261, against nil in the previous year.

Silicate.—There was a decrease of kilos 70,608 in weight and of Rs. 5,575 in value, due chiefly to short supplies from the United Kingdom.

Specie.

Gold.—The value of gold specie received from the United Kingdom in 1906 amounted to Rs. 39,385, against nil in 1905.

Paper Currency.—The value of paper currency received from the United Kingdom amounted to Rs. 30,600 for 1905, against nil in 1906.

Silver.—The value of silver currency imported in 1906 amounted to Rs. 560,646, against Rs. 738,265 for 1905, showing a falling off of Rs. 177,619 in value. From Continental India there was a decrease of Rs. 212,984, while from France there was an increase of Rs. 35,365.

Spices.

Chillies.—Compared with 1905, the imports for 1906 showed an increase of kilos 42,897 in weight and of Rs. 4,748 in value, due to more supplies from Continental India (Rs. 4,584) and Pondichery (Rs. 164).

Cloves.—Only 113 kilos, of the value of Rs. 69, were received in 1906 from Continental India, against, for the previous year, kilos 5,901, of the value of Rs. 3,129, from Continental India, Réunion, and Zanzibar, the two last-mentioned countries supplying kilos 1,110, of the value of Rs. 690, and kilos 3,569, of the value of Rs. 1,611, in 1905, against nil in the past year.

Pepper, black.—Increase of kilos 18,446 in weight and of Rs. 3,130 in value, due to more supplies from Continental India (Rs. 1,889) and Singapore (Rs. 1,473).

Spirits.

Brandy.—The imports for 1906 amounted to litres 59,244, of the value of Rs. 91,194, against, for the previous year, litres 41,184, of the value of Rs. 73,360, showing an increase of litres 18,060 in measure and of Rs. 17,834 in value. France supplied litres 15,699 more, with a surplus of Rs. 14,411 in value. An increase of litres 2,173 in measure and of Rs. 2,782 in value, was also noted from the United Kingdom.

Geneva.—Increase of 1838 litres in measure and of Rs. 2,633 in value, due to more supplies from the United Kingdom and Holland amounting to Rs. 1,488 and Rs. 1,216, respectively.

Rum.—The imports for 1906 amounted to litres 4,462, of the value of Rs. 2,320, against, for the previous year, litres 41,077, of the value of Rs. 8,451, showing a decrease of litres 36,615 in measure and of Rs. 6,131 in value, due principally to Hong Kong, which supplied litres 38,132, of the value of Rs. 7,490, in 1905, against nil in 1906. From Réunion there was an increase of litres 1,387, with a surplus of Rs. 905 in value.

Whisky.—Increase of litres 5,647 in measure and of Rs. 3,040 in value, due principally to more supplies from the United Kingdom. Litres 448, of the value of Rs. 171, were received from Holland in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Of other sorts.—Only 45 litres, valued Rs. 27, were received in 1906 from the United Kingdom, against litres 1,428,

of the value of Rs. 1,646, received in 1905 from the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, the latter country supplying litres 1,000, of the value of Rs. 1,316 in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Starch.

Compared with 1905, the imports for the past year showed an increase of kilos 19,563 in weight and of Rs. 9,725 in value, due chiefly to Singapore, which provided kilos 6,913 more, with a surplus of Rs. 7,764 in value. Kilos 12,305, of the value of Rs. 1,960, were received in 1906 from China, against nil in 1905.

Stationery.

The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 99,780, against Rs. 119,080 in 1905, showing a decrease of Rs. 19,300, due to short supplies from Continental India (Rs. 384), Belgium (Rs. 1,642), France (Rs. 2,933), Germany (Rs. 954), and the United Kingdom (Rs. 16,034). Increases were from Austria (Rs. 1,652) and China (Rs. 342). Small supplies were received from Switzerland and the United States in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Steel.

Uncrought.—Increase of kilos 4,539 in weight and of Rs. 5,817 in value, due to more supplies from the United Kingdom and France amounting to Rs. 1,426 and Rs. 4,390, respectively.

Stones.

Marble.—Compared with 1905, the imports for 1906 showed an increase of 67 in number, but a shortage of Rs. 2,247 in value. The shortage in value was due to the importation of three marbles, of the value of Rs. 2,412, from Italy in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Sugar.

Raw.—Kilos 103, of the value of Rs. 52, were received in 1905 from Germany, while for 1906 there were received from Continental India kilos 60, of the value of Rs. 8. Kilos 52,383 of raw sugar, of the value of Rs. 19,096, forming part of the original cargo, laden at Jamaica on board the vessel "Jules Simon," bound for Nantes, were sold here as damaged cargo, as the vessel entered this port in distress on her way to France in 1906.

Sulphur.

Common.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 993,770, of the value of Rs. 106,074, against kilos 503,390, of the value of Rs. 44,150, for 1905, showing an increase of kilos 490,380 in weight and of Rs. 61,924 in value. The United Kingdom and France showed increases of kilos 35,620 and kilos 454,760 in weight and of Rs. 2,617 and Rs. 59,308 in value, respectively.

Tallow.

Kilos 14,273, of the value of Rs. 8,222, were received in 1906, against kilos 40,684, of the value of Rs. 19,076, in 1905. There was a decrease of kilos 26,411 in weight and of Rs. 10,854 in value, due chiefly to Australia, which provided for a less value of Rs. 11,155. A small increase of Rs. 261 was noted under the United Kingdom.

Tamarinds.

Increase of kilos 6,499 in weight and of Rs. 2,367 in value, due exclusively to more supplies from Continental India.

Tarpaulins.

Eighty tarpaulins, of the value of Rs. 7,160, were received in 1906, against 35, of the value of Rs. 2,390, in 1905. There was an increase of 45 in number and of Rs. 4,770 in value. Tarpaulins were exclusively received from the United Kingdom.

Tea.

The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 46,132, of the value of Rs. 41,437, against, for the previous year, kilos 54,675, of the value of Rs. 53,617, showing a decrease of kilos 8,543 in weight and of Rs. 12,180 in value. From Ceylon there was a decrease of kilos 12,811 in weight and of Rs. 14,225 in value. Continental India and China showed increases of kilos 1,579 and kilos 3,059 in weight and of Rs. 1,079 and Rs. 1,576 in value, respectively.

Tin.

Plates.—The imports for 1906 amounted to kilos 155,756, of the value of Rs. 35,861, against, for the previous year, kilos 147,353, of the value of Rs. 31,908, showing an increase of kilos 8,403 in weight and of Rs. 3,953 in value, due principally to the United Kingdom, which provided for a surplus value of Rs. 3,831.

Slabs.—Kilos 8,875, of the value of Rs. 36,510, were imported in 1906, against kilos 8,749, of the value of Rs. 23,221, in 1905. There was an increase of kilos 126 in weight, with a surplus of Rs. 13,289 in value. This large surplus in value was due to difference in the market prices of Straits Settlements, which supplied kilos 1,552 less, with a shortage of Rs. 382 only in value. There were received from Singapore kilos 1,359 more, with a surplus of Rs. 10,056 in value, and from the United Kingdom kilos 861 more, with a surplus of Rs. 3,261 in value. The Cape Colonies supplied kilos 1,028, of the value of Rs. 2,038, in 1905, against nil in 1906, while from Germany kilos 486, of the value of Rs. 2,391, were received in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Tobacco.

Manufactured.—The value of the imports amounted to kilos 155,530, of the value of Rs. 354,561, in 1906, against kilos 171,431, of the value of Rs. 353,162, in 1905, showing a decrease of kilos 15,901 in weight but an increase of Rs. 1,399 in value, due to difference in market prices from Réunion, which supplied kilos 2,756 less, but with an increase of Rs. 17,702 in value. From France there was an increase of Rs. 2,274, while from the United States a decrease of Rs. 18,590 was noted.

Cigars.—Decrease of kilos 3,532 in weight, but surplus of Rs. 3,202 in value. From Continental India there was a decrease of kilos 4,007 in weight and of Rs. 8,184 in value, but an increase of kilos 181 in weight and of Rs. 9,779 in value was noted from the United States.

Unmanufactured.—Compared with 1905, the imports for 1906 showed a decrease both in weight of kilos 16,930 and in value of Rs. 7,657, due to short supplies from Continental India.

Tortoise and Pearl Shell.

Kilos 4,010, of the value of Rs. 14,046, were received in 1905, out of which kilos 4,000 were from Madagascar. No import was received in 1906.

Turmeric.

Increase of kilos 53,254 in weight and of Rs. 15,493 in value, due chiefly to Continental India, which provided for a surplus value of Rs. 15,720.

Turpentine.

Increase of 29 hectolitres in measure and of Rs. 4,053 in value, due to the United Kingdom, which supplied hectolitres 29 more, with a surplus of Rs. 4,093 in value. France provided for Rs. 40 in 1905, against nil in 1906.

Twine.

Hemp.—Increase of kilos 4,161 in weight and of Rs. 4,335 in value, due to more supplies from the United Kingdom (Rs. 2,607), Continental India (Rs. 355) and France (Rs. 1,408).

Of other sorts.—Increase of kilos 15,218 in weight and of Rs. 9,938 in value, due principally to more supplies from Continental India.

Umbrellas and Parasols.

Cotton.—Compared with 1905, the imports for 1906 showed a decrease of 5,156 in number and of Rs. 6,165 in value. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 9,396) and France (Rs. 933). From Continental India there was an increase of Rs. 2,361.

Varnish.

Decrease of hectolitres 126 in measure and of Rs. 4,325 in value. France and the United Kingdom showed decreases of hectolitres 10 and hectolitres 118, of the value of Rs. 1,704 and Rs. 2,853, respectively.

Vermicelli and Macaroni.

Decrease of kilos 10,073, with a shortage in value of Rs. 4,302, as compared with 1905. From France there was a falling off of kilos 10,235 in weight and of Rs. 4,296 in value.

Vinegar.

The imports for 1906 amounted to hectolitres 449, of the value of Rs. 8,356, against hectolitres 742, of the value of Rs. 13,205, for 1905, showing a decrease of hectolitres 293 in measure and of Rs. 4,849 in value. France showed a falling off of hectolitres 300, with a shortage of Rs. 4,982 in value.

Wine.

Champagne.—Compared with 1905, the imports for 1906 showed a decrease of litres 1,419, with a shortage of Rs. 21,401 in value, due exclusively to more supplies from France.

Claret in casks.—The imports for 1906 amounted to hectolitres 15,396, of the value of Rs. 516,761, against hectolitres 17,625, of the value of Rs. 604,945, showing a decrease of hectolitres 2,229 in measure and of Rs. 88,184 in value. France, Algeria, and Spain supplied, respectively, hectolitres 2,014, hectolitres 71, and hectolitres 155 less, with decreases of Rs. 83,717, Rs. 2,053, and Rs. 2,684 in value, respectively.

Claret in bottles.—2,027 litres more, with a surplus of Rs. 2,614 in value, were received in 1906, due chiefly to more supplies from France.

Pontac in casks.—The imports for 1906 showed an increase of hectolitres 12 and of Rs. 4,253 in value. Pontac is exclusively received from Cape Colony.

Port in casks.—Hectolitres 85 less were received in 1906, giving a shortage of Rs. 3,874 in value. Portugal and Spain supplied hectolitres 31 less, with a shortage of Rs. 3,080 in value, and hectolitres 46 less, with a shortage of Rs. 644 in value, respectively, as compared with 1905.

Port in bottles.—Litres 701, giving a shortage of Rs. 836 in value, were received in 1906. Decreases were noted from Portugal (Rs. 132) and Spain (Rs. 1,182).

Sherry in casks.—There was a decrease of hectolitres 51, with a falling off of Rs. 1,939 in value. Spain supplied hectolitres 65 less, with a shortage of Rs. 2,616 in value. From Portugal hectolitres 24, of the value of Rs. 933, were received in 1905,

against nil in 1906, while from Algeria hectolitres 41, of the value of Rs. 1,767, were received in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Sherry in bottles.—1,192 litres more, with a surplus of Rs. 1,977 in value, were received in 1906, due chiefly to more supplies from Spain.

Vermouth in casks.—France supplied none in 1906, against hectolitres 176, of the value of Rs. 8,234, in 1905.

Vermouth in bottles.—Litres 18,785 more, with a surplus of Rs. 25,924 in value, were received in 1906. France supplied litres 18,663 more, with a surplus of Rs. 25,808 in value. Small quantities were received from Italy and Germany in 1906.

White Wine in bottles.—There was an increase of litres 1,426 in measure and of Rs. 847 in value. France supplied litres 825 more, with, however, a shortage of Rs. 177 in value. From Germany litres 601, of the value of Rs. 1,024, were received in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Of other sorts.—None received in 1906, against, for 1905, hectolitres 17, of the value of Rs. 2,012, from France, and hectolitres 5, of the value of Rs. 248, from Spain.

Wood.

Board and Planks.—The imports for 1906 amounted to cubic metres 6,746, of the value of Rs. 329,083, against cubic metres 5,693, of the value of Rs. 373,914, in 1905, showing an increase of cubic metres 1,053 in content but a decrease of Rs. 44,831 in value. From Singapore 357 cubic metres more, with a surplus of Rs. 55,183, were received in 1906. Australia supplied cubic metres 2,092, of the value of Rs. 230,293, in 1905, against nil in 1906, while from the United Kingdom cubic metres 1,782, of the value of Rs. 88,353, were received in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Casks, empty.—The imports for 1906 amounted to casks 2,502, of the value of Rs. 9,066, against, for the previous year, 196, of the value of Rs. 981, showing an increase of 2,306 in number and of Rs. 8,085 in value, due chiefly to the United Kingdom, which supplied 2,289 more, with a surplus in value of Rs. 8,039.

Shingles.—There was a decrease of 299,625 in number but an increase of Rs. 3,305 in value. From Singapore there was a decrease of 473,425, with a falling off of Rs. 7,236 in value. From Madagascar 55,500, of the value of Rs. 916, were received in 1905, against nil in 1906, while Continental India supplied 225,000, of the value of Rs. 11,409, in 1906, against nil in 1905. A few thousand shingles were also received from Réunion in 1906.

Shooks.—The imports for 1906 amounted to bundles 96,426, of the value of Rs. 528,671, received from the United Kingdom, Continental India, and France, against, for the previous

year, bundles 61,286, of the value of Rs. 233,225, from the United Kingdom. There was, therefore, an increase of bundles 35,140 and of Rs. 295,446 in value. The United Kingdom provided bundles 26,669 more, with a surplus of Rs. 247,359 in value. France and Continental India provided for Rs. 23 and Rs. 48,064, respectively, in 1906, against nil in 1905.

Timber.—There was an increase of 311 cubic metres in bulk, but a shortage of Rs. 32,063 in value. Cubic metres 44 more were received from the United Kingdom in 1906, with a surplus of Rs. 5,011 in value. From Australia 502 cubic metres more, with a surplus of Rs. 29,238 only in value. From Continental India cubic metres 256 less, with a shortage of Rs. 58,238 in value were received. From Madagascar cubic metres 61 more were received, with, however, a shortage of Rs. 6,936 in value.

Woodenware.—The value of the imports for 1906 amounted to Rs. 8,737, against, for the previous year, Rs. 12,887, showing a decrease of Rs. 4,150. The chief decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 3,196), France (Rs. 1,152), and China (Rs. 527).

Woollen Manufactures.

Blankets.—There was a decrease of Rs. 1,390, due to Holland, which provided for Rs. 2,549 in 1905, against nil in 1906. Increases were from France (Rs. 203), China (Rs. 953), and the United Kingdom (Rs. 1,001). From Continental India there was a shortage of Rs. 920.

Mixed with Cotton and Silk.—Decrease of metres 29,316 in measure and of Rs. 16,196 in value. Decreases were from France (Rs. 12,194) and Germany (Rs. 3,720). Italy provided for Rs. 1,780 in 1905, against nil in 1906. From the United Kingdom there was an increase of Rs. 2,162.

Shawls.—Compared with the previous year, the imports for 1906 showed a decrease of 578 shawls, with a shortage of Rs. 1,525 in value, due chiefly to Austria, which supplied 1,485 shawls less, with a falling off of Rs. 2,398 in value. Slight increases were noted from France and Germany. Switzerland provided for Rs. 209 in 1905, against nil in the past year.

EXPORTS.

The principal articles exported from Mauritius are sugar, rum, molasses, cocoanut oil, aloe fibre and vanilla—the produce of the Colony. The quantities and values exported in the last five years are shown hereunder:—

Articles.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Sugar—					
Kilos. ...	150,305,678	170,416,541	197,825,666	164,194,858	186,389,239
Rupees ...	30,598,229	34,495,795	40,512,462	34,537,625	37,763,843
Rum—					
Litres ...	171,908	45,453	96,278	267,266	48,943
Rupees ...	28,952	10,345	22,468	39,411	11,020
Molasses—					
Kilos. ...	15,378,066	11,412,425	18,404,540	11,095,122	18,596,798
Rupees ...	1,144,021	402,052	668,935	405,258	763,116
Cocoonut Oil—					
Hecto. ...	5,280	4,462	3,848	1,707	3,915
Rupees ...	142,658	122,197	121,309	50,607	110,247
Alse Fibre—					
Kilos. ...	2,144,609	1,518,684	1,920,078	1,673,922	1,949,878
Rupees ...	937,877	551,234	627,519	564,548	737,602
Vanilla—					
Kilos. ...	4,787	3,486	3,305	5,268	4,128
Rupees ...	137,224	110,239	88,066	108,322	29,177

The quantity and value of the principal minor exports are shown below :—

Articles.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Vacoa bags—					
Number ...	57,625	42,847	11,600	131,000	45,000
Rupees ...	3,973	1,835	1,160	4,263	2,200
Salted Fish—					
Kilos ...	27,224	18,526	4,705	16,218	60,795
Rupees ...	11,204	5,030	1,865	6,660	23,543
Hides, Raw and salted—					
Kilos ...	11,562	37,695	19,121	66,553	74,683
Rupees ...	4,960	18,043	7,107	27,105	47,405
Horns—					
Number ...	1,425	2,120	—	7,958	9,660
Rupees ...	48	312	—	359	2,987
Soap—					
Kilos ...	655	202	137	3,262	—
Rupees ...	151	62	18	783	—
Tea—					
Kilos ...	238	361	25	19	853
Rupees ...	312	498	50	36	1,041
Machinery and Millwork—					
Kilos ...	55,319	100,194	22,795	36,015	12,650
Rupees ...	40,826	65,196	18,140	21,128	9,453

The Countries to which the principal products have chiefly been exported with the quantities shipped are shown below.

Articles.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Sugar—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Continental India.	92,645,867	121,386,848	115,490,180	94,982,357	113,069,839
Cape Colonies	26,611,758	18,505,947	38,144,051	30,550,946	28,788,806
Natal ...	61,857	1,525,052	7,353,090	7,045,170	4,479,408
Ceylon ...	72,164	116,722	176,485	113,809	118,410
Australia ...	6,512,595	4,888,497	3,546,594	3,471,835	4,761,325
United Kingdom.	16,618,750	18,681,580	26,409,059	7,701,796	10,310,952
United States of America.	—	—	—	—	3,446,491
France ...	150	—	—	184	86
Delagoa Bay...	—	—	3,658,915	2,714,234	4,759,835
Hong Kong...	7,433,620	4,800,558	1,450,830	6,407,524	15,906,072
Aden ...	7,377	31,367	38,195	328,109	447,193
Seychelles ...	201,093	238,307	267,916	201,284	198,244
Madagascar...	1,790	—	—	—	—
Mombassa ...	12,757	—	—	—	—
Singapore ...	24,705	113,707	—	—	—
Straits Settlements.	12,091	—	—	—	—
Pondichery ...	—	—	1,476	—	3,798
Cochin China	—	37,538	15,068	—	—
Philippine Islands.	—	—	2,152	—	—
Barbados ...	—	—	1,177,645	—	—
Italy... ..	—	150	—	—	—
Japan ...	—	—	—	99,302	—
Canada ...	—	—	—	10,488,237	—
Rum—	Litres.	Litres.	Litres.	Litres.	Litres.
United Kingdom.	71,486	—	—	191,348	—
Seychelles ...	66,703	30,255	51,881	29,857	33,914
Hong Kong...	—	—	32,005	—	—
Aden ...	14,545	15,198	12,392	8,616	13,240
Cape Colonies	—	—	—	—	—
France ...	18,009	—	—	24,611	33
Glorieuse Island.	1,165	—	—	—	—
Continental India.	—	—	—	973	1,756
Germany ...	—	—	—	11,861	—
Molasses—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Continental India.	15,311,666	11,207,800	17,723,300	11,088,082	18,583,775
United Kingdom.	—	—	—	—	400
Ceylon ...	58,000	25	—	—	—
Cape Colonies	8,400	—	3,720	7,040	12,623
Hong Kong...	—	204,600	677,520	—	—
Cocoanut Oil—	Hecto-litres.	Hecto-litres.	Hecto-litres.	Hecto-litres.	Hecto-litres.
Réunion ...	—	—	—	19.95	23.70
Natal ...	—	7.20	6.93	50.75	171.78

Countries to which Principal Products have been Exported—cont.

Articles.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Cocoanut Oil—	Hecto-	Hecto-	Hecto-	Hecto-	Hecto-
<i>cont.</i>	<i>litres.</i>	<i>litres.</i>	<i>litres.</i>	<i>litres.</i>	<i>litres.</i>
Cape Colonies	209.84	—	—	—	—
United King- dom.	4,563.04	4,454.50	3,245.19	631.75	3,041.70
France ...	500.60	—	—	—	675.75
Continental	—	—	596.00	1,005.00	—
India.	—	—	—	—	—
Germany ...	—	—	—	—	2.45
Aloe Fibre—	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
United King- dom.	1,253,999	964,864	1,544,409	1,236,755	1,678,807
France ...	890,610	553,820	364,515	399,847	188,781
Australia ...	—	—	—	—	—
Germany ...	—	—	11,154	28,800	15,000
Continental	—	—	—	—	—
India.	—	—	—	—	—
Belgium ...	—	—	—	8,520	—
United States of America.	—	—	—	—	67,290
Vanilla—					
France ...	1,665	2,047	82	1,158	30
United King- dom.	3,085	1,405	3,123	4,019	814
Australia ...	32	34	54	32	—
Natal ...	—	—	12	—	—
Cape Colonies	5	—	31	—	—
Continental	—	—	3	—	—
India.	—	—	—	—	—
Germany ...	—	—	—	59	—
Madagascar...	—	—	—	—	9

MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines in Mauritius. Sugar, of course, rum, vinegar, and soap are manufactured in the Colony. There is a small quantity of tea grown, and there are several factories for the extraction of fibre from the aloe plant, which grows abundantly in the Colony. There does not appear to have been any special incident of interest in connection with local manufactures during the year under review.

The fisheries are protected by special laws and by the creation of Crown reserves, as well as by the establishment of private barachois, by the creation of a close season, and by the prohibition of the capture of an illegal size of fish and the prohibition of illegal nets.

There are 11 private barachois or enclosures communicating with the sea, duly registered under Ordinance No. 21 of 1902. These private barachois are walled ponds or "fish paddocks," which, by permission, may be replenished from Government reserves.

Certain parts of the coast are set apart, which are called "reserves," and in which no fishing can take place except by rod and line or by basket net. The protection of these reserves is left to the Inland Revenue Branch of the Receiver General's Department, consisting of one superintendent, five inspectors, and twenty-five guards. The police have also concurrent jurisdiction in detecting offences under the fishery laws.

The fisheries of the Colony, in so far as the food supply is concerned, have in no way improved during the year. Mauritius is still almost entirely dependent on the Island dependencies of the Colony, and on British and foreign countries and Colonies for the supply of dried, salted, and pickled fish.

The exports of fish and fishing products are chiefly restricted to the "Bambara," or sea slugs, which are not consumed in the Colony, but sent to Hong Kong and Singapore. This industry is chiefly in the hands of the Chinese.

FORESTRY AND BOTANY.

The approximate area of lands of various descriptions under the care of the Forest Department was at the end of the year:

	acres.
Crown Lands	66,699
Mountain Reserves	11,000
River Reserves	6,000
Curatelle Lands	830
	84,529

There are three botanical stations at different altitudes which, besides being centres of acclimatisation of large numbers of plants, both tropical and subtropical, are also and chiefly forest nurseries of increasing importance.

The Royal Botanical Gardens, Pamplemousses.

These gardens, of a total extent of 91 acres, are resorted to both by large numbers of inhabitants of the Colony and by strangers. The foreign relations have also increased lately through the free exchange system, which correspondents all over the world have accepted to adhere to. 173,000 forest plants in 1906 were sold to the public for a sum of Rs. 1,887·87. To Government forests and public Institutions 9,428 *Filao* (*Casuarina*) and *Eucalyptus* plants, 49,980 other forest plants, 629 palms, 18,119 ornamental plants, 1,300 fruit trees and 64 pounds of seeds were sent free. For the local exchange, over 6,000 plants and 74 lbs. of seeds were supplied in return. The foreign exchange gave rise to a supply of 420 plants and 43 lbs. of seeds of various species from the gardens, and a reception of 1,683 plants and 44 lbs. of seeds.

The Governor has been pleased to reduce by half the price of all forest plants sold to the public, and the transport of planting material by rail is free to the public for orders exceeding

500 plants, the Forest Department repaying the cost to the Railway Department.

The Nursery Gardens, Curepipe.

These gardens, of an area of $56\frac{1}{2}$ acres, are in the most populous town of the Island at an altitude of 1,800 feet, have gained some more importance this year through the increase of forest nurseries, which are now on an extensive footing.

Over 195,000 pine seedlings were transplanted successfully and about 130,000 are still on seed beds for the supply of forest plantations. In addition, over 268,000 forest plants were disposed of in favour of the public, of Government plantations, &c.

Five horticultural apprentices selected from primary schools were trained here in 1906.

The Réduit Gardens.

These are included in the Réduit domain, where resides the Governor of the Colony. The forest plantations made here in previous years supply useful seeds for other nurseries (eucalyptus, camphor, sandal, &c.).

Horticultural Society.

The Horticultural Society of Mauritius, formed in November 1904, reckons now over 100 members. Its object is the introduction of useful seeds and plants, and the promotion of horticulture in the Colony. It has a nursery at the Curepipe Gardens. It has already held two shows at Curepipe in 1905 and 1906, and they were largely attended and were a success, the society distributing to the exhibitors numbers of certificates and prizes worth Rs. 300 to Rs. 400. Sugars and sugar canes were very attractive at each of the exhibitions and formed with other products of the farm, vegetables and economics, &c., a useful annexure to the flower show.

The Horticultural Society has been favoured this year with a pecuniary assistance from the Government in token of its useful action and as an encouragement for the future.

Statement of Revenue derived from Pas Géométriques leased under "Planting Conditions" of Ord. 19 of 1895.

Districts.			Annual Rents.
			Rs.
Pamplemousses	...	...	1,116.00
Rivière du Rempart	...	...	1,086.00
Flacq	...	...	2,177.00
Grand Port	...	...	1,436.00
Savanne	...	...	1,066.00
Black River	...	...	1,344.12
Total	...	...	8,225.12

LAND GRANTS.

Lands are granted by the Government by lease and by sale. Lands which are situated on the sea coast beyond the limits of Port Louis, known as Pas Géométriques, can only be leased by public auction, except those forming part of settlements which have been proclaimed as villages. The sales are invariably made by public auction. There is, however, an exception to this rule in cases where lands are desired for charitable, religious, or educational purposes.

No sale of Crown land took place in 1906.

SHIPPING.

The shipping for the five years 1902-6 can be thus summarized:—

	1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1. Total No. and Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared (exclusive of Coasting trade, <i>i.e.</i> , Dependencies).	469	746,517	442	767,977	425	801,154	372	731,470	433	805,924
2. British Vessels	324	546,155	306	539,542	290	572,410	245	490,378	270	522,101
3. Foreign Vessels	145	200,362	136	228,435	135	228,714	127	241,092	163	283,823
4. Sailing Vessels	134	88,957	101	65,308	96	66,449	73	50,471	89	58,822
5. Steam Vessels	335	657,560	341	702,669	329	734,705	299	680,999	344	746,102

<i>Coasting Trade (i.e., Dependencies).</i>										
	1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1. Total No. and Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared—	63	11,531	63	11,802	60	12,845	55	9,263	51	9,636
2. British Vessels	57	10,721	63	11,802	60	12,845	55	9,263	51	9,636
3. Foreign Vessels	6	810	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Sailing Vessels	63	11,531	62	11,607	56	12,065	55	9,263	51	9,636
5. Steam Vessels	—	—	1	195	4	780	—	—	—	—

The nationality and description of the vessels are shown in statement on page 57.

The number and tonnage of steam vessels which entered and cleared from and to all countries via the Suez Canal, and the value of goods (including bullion and specie) imported into, and exported by that Canal into and from, Mauritius are shown in the following table:—

Suez Canal.

Years.	Vessels Entered.		Vessels Cleared.		Value of Goods (including Bullion and Specie).	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	Imports.	Exports.
					Rs.	Rs.
1902 ...	26	50,849	27	52,242	3,887,611	2,189,981
1903 ...	32	65,515	27	53,541	6,542,071	2,483,481
1904 ...	32	71,428	20	42,717	3,149,920	234,010
1905 ...	35	84,975	28	68,734	2,437,479	893,257
1906 ...	37	89,109	27	61,980	2,554,574	1,358,512

The first table is a return of all vessels entered and cleared, excluding the coasting trade vessels, *i.e.*, vessels trading with the Dependencies, which are exclusively dealt with in the second table.

The total number of vessels entered and cleared during 1906 show an increase of 61 in number and of 74,454 in tonnage as compared with the figures for 1905.

Compared with 1905 the following differences are noted:—

	Increase of	
	No.	Tonnage.
Sailing Vessels ...	26	9,351
Steam Vessels ...	45	65,103
British Vessels ...	25	31,723
Foreign Vessels ...	36	42,731

Of the 433 vessels which entered and cleared during 1906, 3 British steamers and 2 French steamers, with an aggregate tonnage of 7,958, called at this port for the purpose of coaling, showing an increase of 4 in number and of 5,681 in tonnage as compared with 1905.

Coasting Trade—Dependencies.

The number of vessels entered and cleared from and to the Dependencies during 1906 is 51, with a tonnage of 9,636, against, during 1905, 55 with a tonnage of 9,263, showing a falling off of 4 in number but an increase of 373 in tonnage.

No steamer entered and cleared from and to the Dependencies in 1905 and 1906.

The coasting trade has been exclusively performed by British vessels during 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1906.

Suez Canal.

The value of goods imported through the Suez Canal in 1906 amounted to Rs. 2,554,573.66, against Rs. 2,437,478.93 in 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 117,094.73.

Goods exported from Mauritius through the said canal in 1906 amounted to Rs. 1,358,512.18, against Rs. 893,257.07 in 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 465,255.11.

Vessels with Cargoes.

The tonnage of vessels entered with cargoes during 1906 amounted to 384,459, and the tonnage cleared to 291,942, as against 332,236 entered and 257,787 cleared for 1905.

The aggregate tonnage of the coasting trade amounted to 4,723 entered and 4,913 cleared in 1906, against 4,661 entered and 4,602 cleared in 1905.

Vessels touching at this Port.

Two French steamers with an aggregate tonnage of 3,812, one Norwegian sailing vessel of 337 and one American sailing vessel of 365 tons touched at this port without entering the harbour during 1906.

Statement of number and tonnage of British and foreign sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared for 1905 and 1906:—

Entered.

	1905.		1906.		Difference.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	+ Increase. — Decrease.	
					No.	Tonnage.
Sailing vessels	64	29,429	71	34,967	+ 7	+ 5,538
Steamers ...	148	335,606	173	375,073	+25	+ 39,467
Total ...	212	365,035	244	410,040	+32	+ 45,005

Cleared.

	1905.		1906.		Difference.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage	+ Increase. — Decrease.	
					No.	Tonnage
Sailing vessels	64	30,305	69	34,491	+ 5	+ 4,186
Steamers ...	151	345,393	171	371,029	+20	+ 25,636
Total ...	215	375,698	240	405,520	+25	+ 29,822

Statement showing the classification of shipping by nationalities:—

Entered.

Nationality.	1905.		1906.		Difference	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	+ Increase. — Decrease.	
					No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamers	99	224,112	113	246,176	+14	+ 22,064
Sailing ...	50	20,966	48	20,037	— 2	— 929
French—						
Steamers	45	105,906	52	119,510	+ 7	+ 13,604
Sailing ...	3	374	3	1,263	—	+ 889
German—						
Steamers	4	5,588	5	5,671	+ 1	+ 83
Norwegian—						
Steamers	—	—	2	1,423	+ 2	+ 1,423
Sailing ...	3	2,120	13	7,579	+10	+ 5,459
Dutch—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	2,293	+ 1	+ 2,293
Danish—						
Sailing ...	2	1,226	2	1,758	—	+ 532
Italian—						
Sailing ...	2	1,613	2	2,778	—	+ 1,165
American—						
Sailing ...	—	—	1	365	+ 1	+ 365
Russian—						
Sailing ...	2	1,860	—	—	— 2	— 1,860
Swedish—						
Sailing ...	2	1,270	2	1,187	—	— 83

Cleared.

Nationality.	1905.		1906.		Difference.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	+ Increase. — Decrease.	
					No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamers	102	235,071	112	242,515	+ 10	+ 7,444
Sailing ...	49	19,492	48	21,009	— 1	+ 1,517
French—						
Steamers	44	103,915	52	119,510	+ 8	+ 15,595
Sailing ...	3	1,611	3	1,263	—	— 348
German—						
Steamer	4	5,569	5	5,671	+ 1	+ 102
Norwegian—						
Steamer...	1	838	1	1,040	—	+ 202
Sailing ...	4	3,233	11	6,131	+ 7	+ 2,898
Dutch—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	2,293	+ 1	+ 2,293
Danish—						
Sailing ...	2	1,226	2	1,758	—	+ 532
Italian—						
Sailing ...	2	1,613	2	2,778	—	+ 1,165
American—						
Sailing ...	—	—	1	365	+ 1	+ 365
Russian—						
Sailing ...	2	1,860	—	—	— 2	— 1,860
Swedish—						
Sailing ...	2	1,270	2	1,187	—	— 83

TRANSPORTS AND MEN-OF-WAR.

The following transports and men-of-war visited this port during the year 1906:—

British—

	Registered tonnage.
The "Soudan" (29th January) ...	6,680
"Soudan" (25th February) ...	6,680
"Crescent"	7,700
"Pelorus"	2,135
"Forte"	4,360
"Terpsichore"	3,400
"Terrible"	4,306
"Dufferin"	3,966
"Hardinge"	2,976

French—

The "D'Entrecasteau"	8,114
"Descartes"	4,200

German—

The "Planet"	800
"Seadler"	1,640

III.—LEGISLATION.

During the Session of 1906, 23 Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor.

The following enactments call for special mention:—

1. By Ordinance No. 4 the amount of security to be furnished under the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund, is raised from Rs. 7,500 to Rs. 12,000, and for any amount in excess of Rs. 12,000 security is to be given by means of an approved guarantee company.
2. Ordinance No. 6 declares the mean solar time of longitude 60° East of Greenwich to be, from 1st January, 1907, standard time throughout Mauritius and its Dependencies, except the Chagos Archipelago, where the standard time shall be the mean solar time of longitude 75° East of Greenwich.
3. Ordinance No. 7 regulates the employment of natives and residents of the Colony for services to be performed beyond the limits thereof, and provides for their due return to the Colony on completion of their term of service.
4. By Ordinance No. 9 the privilege attaching under the Imperial Statute, I William and Mary, Ch. II., to petitions to the Sovereign is extended to the Colony.
5. Ordinance No. 10 improves the classification of juvenile offenders in the Reformatory School.
6. The Quarantine law is amended by Ordinance No. 15, which deals with the admission in certain cases of vessels into the harbour previous to pratique, and with the issue of certificates of clearance in time of epidemics.

7. Ordinance No. 21 regulates the practice of dentistry in the Colony.

8. Ordinance No. 22 re-organises the pilot service of Mauritius by providing for the payment of pilots by fixed salary instead of by fees as hitherto.

9. All the laws dealing with the care and treatment of lunatics are consolidated under one enactment by Ordinance No. 23.

Two Bills were also passed by the Council in 1906, and were reserved by the Governor for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure thereon; the first "To amend the Letters Patent of the 16th September, 1885, as to the qualification of Elected Members" subsequently received His Majesty's gracious assent; the second, "To amend the duty payable on tea," was disallowed.

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

In the year 1906 there were 67 Government and 88 Grant-in-Aid schools in the Colony.

The average number of pupils on the roll for the year at the Government schools was 8,919, and at the Grant-in-Aid schools 9,807, the average number in attendance being 5,491 and 6,425, respectively.

Of the Grant-in-Aid schools, 66 were Roman Catholic, 19 Church of England, two Presbyterian, and one Mohammedan.

In these schools pupils are taught six standards, English, French, and arithmetic being the compulsory subjects for passes in the standards; in addition, at the great majority of the schools, an extended programme is taught in one or more of the subjects, English, French, arithmetic, geography, elementary science (for boys), and needlework (for girls).

Examinations are conducted annually by the Inspectors of Schools, who also pay frequent visits of inspection to the schools during the year.

All the schools are open, without payment of fee, to children of all classes and creeds between the ages of 5 and 16, or in some cases 18.

Religious instruction is imparted to the pupils of Christian creeds in both Government and Grant-in-Aid schools at hours specially set apart in the curriculum of each school, by the clergy of their various denominations.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Royal College, and Schools in connexion.

Secondary education is given at the Royal College with its preparatory schools, the schools associated with the Royal

College, and the girls' schools working under the scheme for the higher education of girls.

The number of pupils at the Royal College and its two schools in December was:—

College proper	240
Curepipe School	69
Port Louis School	43
Total	352

Of these, 257 were paying and 95 free pupils.

The free pupils belonged to the following classes:—

(1) Indigent pupils whose fees have been paid for two years	7
(2) Holders of eleemosynary scholarships	13
(3) Scholars and exhibitioners from primary schools... ..	30
(4) Scholars and exhibitioners whose free tuition has been extended	11
(5) Holders of scholarships and exhibitions won at the College and associated schools	34
Total	95

In the Royal College, pupils are prepared for the London Matriculation and the Cambridge Senior Local Examinations.

The passing of these examinations qualifies the successful candidates for entrance to the highest classes of the College on the Classical and Modern sides, respectively.

For the London Matriculation, 14 pupils were presented, and 5 passed.

For the Cambridge Senior, 68 College pupils and 23 outsiders entered; 23 College pupils and 2 outsiders passed.

In each of the highest classes a scholarship is annually given, of the value of about £1,000, to enable the successful student to follow some special course of study abroad, in general at some institution in the United Kingdom.

Numerous small scholarships, exhibitions, and other awards are given to students in the other classes.

The preparatory schools of the College and the 25 associated schools prepare students for the classes of the College proper.

Religious instruction is given at the College and its two schools, and annual examinations are held in this subject.

HIGHER GIRLS' SCHOOLS.

The girls' schools, in the scheme for the higher education of girls, provide a course of study suitable for girls between the ages of 11 and 17.

The principal subjects taught are English, French, history, geography, mathematics, Latin, music, drawing, needlework, and religious instruction.

Annual examinations are held for these schools, and on the results, prizes and certificates are awarded and grants are paid.

The number of these schools working in connexion with the Department and earning grants from Government was 22.

The examinations, however, are open to all the girls in the Colony who are of age to compete, except those who are pupils of the Government and Grant-in-Aid primary schools.

The number of girls who competed was 286; of these, 124 obtained certificates.

INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, AND AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

The Government training school for men teachers accommodates about 20 students in training, and that for women about 12 students. At the last examination for teachers, four men and four women from these schools obtained certificates.

Provision was made for the establishment of Grant-in-Aid training schools, but no such school has yet been established.

Eight mechanical engineering apprenticeships, tenable at the Government railway works, and two horticultural apprenticeships, tenable at the Government botanical gardens, are awarded every year on the results of competitive examinations.

Agricultural chemistry is taught at the Royal College to special classes of students.

Under the regulations in Code B, for the teaching of handicrafts to pupils in the primary schools, classes were conducted at four primary schools during the year.

In Code A provision is made for the teaching of handicrafts by means of a system of apprenticeships to promising students.

A scheme exists, as part of Code A, for the yearly appointment of two students in civil engineering.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

During the year under review, the hospitals and asylums of the Colony numbered 14, including the two small hospitals attached to Flacq and Souillac Prisons.

The following table supplies the usual statistical information concerning the admissions, cases treated, &c., in each of these institutions during the year 1906:—

Hospitals.	Remaining at end of 1905.	Admis- sions.	Deaths.	Total Cases Treated.	Remaining at end of 1906.
Civil	168	5,784	404	5,952	125
Port Louis Prisons...	18	898	6	916	12
Long Mountain ...	15	644	62	659	10
Poudre d'Or... ..	25	1,385	73	1,410	28
Flacq	37	2,045	133	2,082	25
Flacq Prisons ...	—	77	1	77	9
Mahébourg	26	2,218	90	2,244	39
Savanne	27	1,102	62	1,129	19
Savanne Prisons ...	10	280	2	290	6
Barkly Asylum ...	104	3,518	282	3,622	84
Lunatic Asylum ...	24	441	30	465	24
Beau Bassin Prisons	15	996	29	1,011	18
Reformatory	—	79	1	79	—
Moka... ..	13	904	46	917	5
Total... ..	482	20,371	1,221	20,853	404

There were 423 patients on the roll of the lunatic asylum at the close of the year under review, exclusive of one female patient who was then under observation on interim order. This total shows an increase of 12 over the number of the previous year. The daily average number of male lunatics confined in the asylum during 1906 was 248·10, and that of female patients 171·22.

Taking into account the number of patients in the lunatic asylum and the lunatic branch wards of the Barkly Asylum, as well as those out on probation, the number of insane is 1 in 632 of the population of the Colony.

The sanitary condition of the Colony has, on the whole, been slightly more satisfactory than that which obtained during the previous year. Fever and dysentery prevailed to a lesser extent, whilst the plague epidemic, with the exception of that of 1905, has been the lowest recorded since the introduction of the disease in 1899.

The total rainfall recorded for the year amounted to 41·66 inches, showing a reduction of 7·39 inches on the normal. This low rainfall, which was evenly distributed throughout the year, apparently helped in producing the amelioration noticed in the sanitary state of the island, especially as regards the prevalence of fever and dysentery.

The number of admissions into the hospitals and asylums was 20,371 in 1906, against 20,735 in 1905, which shows a reduction of 364.

Malarial Fever is responsible for 3,674 admissions in the hospitals. This figure is lower than that of the previous year by 1,449.

Dysentery.—The number of patients, 794, who resorted to the different hospitals on account of that complaint shows a considerable reduction, when compared with that of the previous year, when it stood at 1,013.

Enteric Fever.—Only six admissions for that disease were registered in the hospitals. In addition to these cases, 75 others were notified from the different districts of the Colony in compliance with the Contagious Disease Ordinance.

Influenza has given rise to 1,768 admissions, showing an increase of 729 over the number recorded in 1905. This disease prevailed in an epidemic character during the winter, and its incidence reached its acme in July, when 1,023 cases were reported from the different district hospitals.

Tuberculosis.—Under that heading, 972 admissions were recorded in 1906, showing a decrease of 36 when compared with the figure of the previous year.

Pertussis, which had only existed in a sporadic form during a number of years, occurred more frequently at the end of 1905 and assumed an epidemic character in 1906. The number of cases admitted into hospital was 169, of which five proved fatal, while the number of deaths ascribed to it at the civil status reached 216 during the year under review.

Plague.—As already remarked, the plague epidemic has been more limited than those of the previous years, 1905 excepted. The death rate, though it showed a diminution on that recorded in 1905, reached the high figure of 79·3 per cent. during the year under review.

The following table shows the yearly incidence of the disease since its appearance in 1899, as well as the deaths and death rate:—

Year.				Cases.	Deaths.	Death-rate.
				Per cent.		
1899	...	...	...	1,416	1,117	78·9
1900	...	...	...	796	593	74·5
1901	...	...	...	1,093	805	73·6
1902	...	...	...	506	386	76·3
1903	...	...	...	1,395	1,035	74·2
1904	...	...	...	568	449	79·0
1905	...	...	...	308	251	81·5
1906	...	...	...	434	344	79·3

The campaign for the destruction of rats, which play such an important part in the dissemination of plague, was prosecuted with unabated vigour throughout the year under review, 105,568 rats being destroyed by the official rat catchers alone.

Surra has existed throughout the year, but to a lesser extent than during the previous one. A rapid decline in the

epizootic took place after the month of March, and the virulence of the disease appeared to be diminished.

POOR RELIEF.

There are no poorhouses, in the English sense, in Mauritius, but relief, both indoor and outdoor, is extensively given to the poor.

The indoor relief is given at the public hospitals of the Colony, at the Barkly Asylum for the aged and infirm poor, and at the various convent infirmaries and the public dispensaries. The outdoor relief consists of grants of food, money, clothes, and medicines.

The expenditure of the Poor Law Department for the year 1906 amounted to Rs. 221,040.35 c.

The number of patients treated at the several hospitals was 16,091, and the number of paupers who received outdoor relief was 2,113. The number of pauper orphans maintained in convents at the expense of the Poor Law Commission amounted to 40, and 939 infirm paupers were maintained in infirmaries. The number of sick paupers who applied at the public dispensaries, and who received either medicines or medical treatment, was 45,182.

The following table shows the total number of persons who received indoor and outdoor relief in 1906, namely:—

(a) Recipients of indoor relief:—			
Sick in country district hospitals	...	...	11,527
Sick in Civil Hospital	...	...	4,332
Sick in Convent Hospital, Canal Street	...	...	232
Inmates of Barkly Asylum	...	...	816
Lepers at St. Lazare	...	...	190
Inmates of Lunatic Asylum	...	...	504
Orphans in Convents	...	...	40
Inmates of Calebasses and Convent branch infirmaries	...	...	939
(b) Recipients of outdoor relief:—			
Alimentary and pecuniary	...	...	2,113
Medical (sick at dispensaries)	...	...	45,182
Total			65,875

There is also a leper asylum (St. Lazare) in Port Louis, into which 80 pauper lepers were admitted last year; and a lunatic asylum at Beau Bassin, into which there were admitted 81 males and 44 females, making a total of 125 inmates admitted in 1906.

REFORMATORY.

The admissions show a decrease of five, and the discharges a decrease of three, compared with 1905.

The daily average number of convicted and unconvicted increased by 4.46, compared with 1905.

The daily average number of admissions decreased by .01, compared with 1905.

Six escapes took place, showing a decrease of four as compared with those of 1905. Seven were re-captured, one of whom escaped in 1905.

The total number of admissions into hospital shows an increase of seven, and therefore an increase of .02 in the daily average number of admissions.

The daily average number of sick in hospital shows a decrease of .04.

There was one death during the year. None occurred in 1905.

The total cost of maintaining and guarding the boys was Rs. 13,765.89 c., against Rs. 13,543.44 c. in 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 222.45 c. as compared with 1905.

The total cost per head on average number of boys detained was Rs. 212.56, against Rs. 224.60 c. in 1905, a decrease of Rs. 12.04 c. per head for 1906.

The earnings amounted to Rs. 3,288.09 c., against Rs. 3,068.85 c. in 1905. The increase is therefore Rs. 219.24 c.

The total earnings per head on average number of boys was Rs. 50.77 c., against Rs. 50.89 c. in 1905, a decrease of 12 cents per head for 1906.

SAVINGS BANK.

The deposits at the Government Savings Bank, at 3 per cent. interest, amounted to Rs. 2,850,234 on the 30th of June, 1906, as compared with Rs. 2,845,052 at the same date in 1905, showing an increase of Rs. 5,182.

The following return shows the number of depositors, and the amount standing to the credit of the general and the Indian populations at the end of the years 1904-05 and 1905-06.

Number of depositors and amount to credit of general and Indian populations:—

	1904-5.		1905-6.	
	No. of Depositors.	Amount.	No. of Depositors.	Amount.
		Rs.		Rs.
General Population	16,299	1,724,622	17,629	1,669,038
Indian Population	9,498	1,120,430	10,054	1,181,196
Total	25,797	2,845,052	27,683	2,850,234

The financial position of the bank on 30th of June, 1906, was as follows:—

	Rs.
Investments	3,127,295.37
Cash in hand	3,674.86
Receiver-General (interest due by Treasury for 1905-06)	82,099.56
	3,213,069.79
Liabilities due to depositors and to Treasury	2,912,372.42
Balance in favour of the bank	300,697.37

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE, PRISONS, AND CRIMINAL.

The total effective strength of the police force on the 31st of December, 1906, was 721; the actual strength, however, was 718.

The force comprised nine nationalities, but 534 were natives of Mauritius.

Ninety-one constables were enlisted during the year, and 11 were dismissed.

Fifty-four sub-officers and constables resigned, or were discharged on pension or gratuity during the year.

Detection and Repression of Crime.

The number of offences coming to the knowledge of the police during 1906 totalled 22,817, in connexion with which 12,628 persons were apprehended or summoned before the magistrates.

The following return will show the nature of the various offences:—

Nature of Offences.	No. of cases.	No. of persons charged.
(a) Serious offences reported to, or detected by, the Police, in which persons were charged.	2,417	3,034
(b) Serious offences reported to the Police, which, in certain cases, formed the subject of enquiries, but in which no persons were charged.	9,863	481 ^c
(c) Minor offences reported to, or detected by, the Police in which persons were charged.	4,054	6,152
(d) Minor offences reported to the Police in which no persons were charged.	3,535	—
(e) Offences against the Labour Law	1,438	1,451
(f) Vagrancy	1,510	1,510
Total	22,817	12,628

^c On suspicion.

CASES OF CRIMES IN WHICH PERSONS WERE CHARGED.

Offences.	Number of Cases.	Number of Persons Charged.	Number of Persons or Committed to Assizes.	Number of Persons or Committed to wise disposed of.	Pendings	Amount of Property Stolen.	Amount of Property Recovered.	
							By all Agencies.	By Police only.
						Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs.
Murder, including parricide, infanticide, wife murder, &c., and poisoning causing death.	12	18	12	5	1	—	—	—
Attempt at foregoing : and attempt at poisoning not causing death.	7	9	5	1	3	—	—	—
Manslaughter, including wounds and blows causing death...	8	9	8	—	1	—	—	—
Rape, including attempt upon chastity ...	19	21	11	4	6	—	—	—
Larceny at night by breaking, or with violence to the person.	114	186	141	33	12	14,825.77	1,722.21	1,611.47
Removing, receiving, or possessing stolen property obtained by foregoing larcenies.	46	57	38	10	9	—	663.41	660.91
Prædial or other larcenies, including cheating, embezzlement, and swindling.	1,283	1,548	1,236	186	126	27,031.17	8,745.51	7,555.25
Removing, receiving or possessing stolen property obtained by foregoing larcenies.	240	283	198	66	19	—	3,358.08	3,080.67
Arson or other malicious injuries to property ...	10	17	12	3	2	—	—	—
All other offences not included in above ...	678	886	612	152	122	—	—	—
Total ...	2,417	3,034	2,273	460	301	41,856.94	14,489.21	12,908.30

It will be observed that of the serious offences reported to, or detected by, the police, there were 2,417 cases, in which 3,034 persons were charged, and of these 2,273 or 74·91 per cent., were either summarily convicted or committed to assizes.

The amount of property declared to have been stolen was Rs. 41,856.94, of which Rs. 14,489.21, or 34·61 per cent., was recovered.

The following return records all serious offences reported to, or detected by, the police, which formed the subject of enquiries, and in which no persons were charged:—

Offences.	No of cases.	No. of persons arrested on suspicion.	Amount of Property alleged to have been stolen.	Amount of Property recovered.	
				By all Agencies.	By Police only.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Murder, including parricide, wife murder, and poisoning causing death	2	1	—	—	—
Attempt at foregoing, and attempt at poisoning not causing death	2	2	—	—	—
Other offences against the person	6,078	76	—	—	—
Larceny at night by breaking, or with violence to the person	437	62	37,297.83	1,065.26	333.94
Prædial or other larcenies, including cheating, embezzlement, and swindling	2,935	299	67,963.00	13,346.57	8,002.73
Removing, receiving, or possessing stolen property	33	17	—	192.94	156.93
Arson or other malicious injuries to property	27	12	—	—	—
Other offences against property...	321	9	—	—	—
All other offences not included in above	28	3	—	—	—
Total	9,863	481	105,260.83	14,604.77	8,493.60

The total number of fires which formed the subject of police investigation in 1906 was 246, and the total value of the property destroyed was Rs. 38,980.36 c.

The following is another classification of the offences reported:—

Offences against the person	8,281
Prædial larceny	380
Offences against property other than prædial larceny	5,142
Other offences	9,014
Total	<u>22,817</u>

PRISONS.

During the year 1906, in addition to the two Central Prisons of Port Louis and Beau Bassin, as well as the District Prison of Savanne already open, the Flacq District Prison was re-opened in June.

The total number of prisoners admitted after conviction during the year was 5,539 males and 245 females. These numbers show a decrease of 441 males and an increase of 69 females as compared with the returns of 1905.

The number committed under the different headings, compared with the previous year, is as follows:—

Year.	Debt.	Non-payment of fines and costs.	Safe custody till trial or for want of security.	For purposes of penal imprisonment.
1905 ...	10	1,610	3,392	6,156
1906 ...	9	1,496	3,332	5,784

There is a decrease of 4 males and an increase of 69 females previously convicted, as compared with the number so convicted in 1905.

Under the classification "Duration of Sentences," a decrease in short sentences and an increase in long sentences, in periods of "5 to 10 years," as well as decrease in life sentences is shown, the figures being:—

Five to 10 years—

1906	18
1905	10

Increase 8

Life—

1905	11
1906	3

Decrease 8

The daily average number under detention, as compared with 1905, shows an increase of 23·04.

Daily average—

1906	...	...	...	...	...	1,027·87
1905	...	...	...	...	...	1,004·83
Decrease						23·04

Sickness and Mortality.

The following were the prevailing diseases:—

Port Louis Central Prison.	Beau Bassin New Central Prison.	Savanne District Prison.	Flacq District Prison.
Malarial Fever. Dysentery. Influenza.	Malarial Fever. Diarrhoea. Dysentery. Influenza.	Malarial Fever. Dysentery. Influenza.	Malarial Fever.

Thirty-nine deaths occurred during the year:—1 at Flacq, 2 at Savanne, 29 at Beau Bassin, and 7 at Port Louis Prisons, compared with 46 in 1905.

The causes were as hereunder:—

Diseases.	No.	Diseases.	No.
Port Louis Prisons—		Beau Bassin Prisons—	
Pneumonia... ..	3	Influenza	3
Dysentery	1	Dysentery	4
Rupture of Spleen ...	1	Tuberculosis	3
Phthisis	1	General Debility ...	5
Tuberculosis	1	Congestion of Brain ...	2
Total	7	Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	2
		Pericarditis	1
		Pneumonia... ..	5
		Pleurisy	1
		Peritonitis	1
		Diarrhoea	1
		Gangrene	1
		Total	29
Savanne District Prison—		Flacq District Prison—	
Pernicious Fever ...	1	Influenza	1
Pleurisy and Pneumonia...	1		
Total	2		

The death-rate for the prisons, taking the rate per cent. of deaths on the daily average number under detention, was 3·79, compared with 4·58 in 1905.

Taking the prisons separately, it was as follows:—

	1905.	1906.
Port Louis Prisons	2.97	2.73
Beau Bassin Prisons	4.28	4.58
Flacq District Prison	Not open.	2.54
Savanne District Prison	10.36	2.04

The daily average number of sick in the prison hospitals was 50.48, as compared with 50.44 in 1905.

Escapes.

There were in all 31 escapes of prisoners during the year, as against 39 in 1905, including one escape from within the precincts (Savanne District Prison), 29 whilst at outdoor labour, and one while under police escort.

Of the above, 24 were recaptured, 7 still remaining at large on 31st December, 1906.

The total cost of maintenance during the year under review was Rs. 75,336.25, as compared with Rs. 71,325.76 in 1905.

The gross earnings were Rs. 136,598.14, as against Rs. 132.44 in the previous year. The yearly earnings per head averaged Rs. 143.71.

The prisoners were employed as carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, tinsmiths, and at making rattan goods and mats.

They were also employed at stone-breaking and sanitary works, and other kinds of out-door labour.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

	Numbers	
The population on the 1st January, 1906 was ...	11,363	377,532
The number of births registered in 1906 was ...		
The number of births unregistered owing to death intervening before registration was made, was ...		
Total births	12,669	2,449
The number of deaths registered was	15,118	
Showing a decrease of		
Arrivals in the Island	4,526	375,083
Departures from the Island	4,209	
Difference in favour of arrivals		317
Total Civil Population		375,400
Military stationed in the Island		2,234
Total population of the Island		377,634
Estimated population of Dependencies and outlying Islands... ..		5,572
Estimated total population of the Colony		383,206

The crews of non-Colonial shipping in the harbour have not been included in the above estimate.

The Indian population, included in the above, numbered 262,572, composed of 143,390 males and 119,182 females, showing an increase of 290 males and 3,196 females on the Census of 1901.

The general population (excluding Indians) numbered 112,828, of which 57,462 are males and 55,366 females, thus showing an increase of 1,010 males and a decrease of 119 females.

It will be noticed that while both populations show an increase when compared with the Census figures, they show a decrease when compared with the figures for last year.

The public health of the Colony during 1906 has been slightly better than that of 1905.

The death-rate shows a slight decrease, having fallen from 40·6 in 1905 to 40·0 in 1906.

The birth-rate has decreased from 37·0 per 1,000 to 33·5.

An unsatisfactory feature is to be found in the high infantile mortality for the year.

Unfortunately, a very high proportion of still-births, 8·9 per cent., must at the same time be recorded.

The following statement shows the different classes of occupations of the population* :—

Employment.	General Population.		Indo-Mauritians.		Other Indians.		Grand Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Class I.—Professional ..	3,225	624	712	29	373	19	4,310	672	4,982
Class II.—Domestic ..	2,874	3,087	5,183	1,047	1,656	192	8,713	4,326	14,039
Class III.—Commercial ..	5,681	110	3,744	473	3,350	369	12,775	952	13,727
Class IV.—Agricultural ..	3,605	157	41,069	3,779	27,675	1,606	72,349	5,542	77,891
Class V.—Industrial ..	18,211	3,269	1,824	227	756	33	20,791	3,529	24,320
Class VI.—Indefinite and Non-productive.	22,856	48,238	50,438	90,353	6,320	17,369	79,614	156,450	236,064
Total	56,452	55,485	102,970	95,908	40,130	20,078	199,552	171,471	371,023

Births.

There were 12,669 births registered during the year. The birth-rate in the general population was 33·6 per 1,000, and in the Indian population 33·5.

Deaths.

15,118 deaths occurred during the year. The death rate was, in the general population, 38·1 per 1,000, and in the Indian population 40·8. The deaths consequently exceeded the births by 2,449.

Marriages.

There were 976 marriages celebrated during the year. Of these marriages, 514 belonged to the general population, and 462 to the Indian population.

The following return shows the mortality for the last five years :—

Year.				Mortality.	Rate per 1,000.
1902	...	...	...	12,716	34·0
1903	...	...	...	15,034	39·9
1904	...	...	...	12,064	32·2
1905	...	...	...	15,379	40·6
1906	...	...	...	15,118	40·0

* From the Census of 1st April, 1901.

CLIMATE.

General.

The Director of the Royal Alfred Observatory reports as follows:—

Mauritius lies between the meridians of $57^{\circ} 18'$ and $57^{\circ} 49'$ E. longitude, and the parallels of $19^{\circ} 58'$ and $20^{\circ} 32'$ S. latitude. To the north extends the equatorial belt of calms and variable winds, with its hot, damp, and rarefied atmosphere; and to the south the sub-tropical belt of high pressure, from which a current of air blows nearly continuously, in a curved path, towards the equator, being deflected to the west by the rotation of the earth.

The migrations of these belts north and south with the sun produce the seasonal variations of weather at Mauritius. With the system in its most southerly position the Island is under the influence of the belt of low pressure, and in its most northerly position the influence of the high pressure belt is felt; so that in the summer months—December to April—the atmospheric pressure is below the mean for the year, and the weather is hot and sultry with occasional very heavy rain, produced principally by the cyclones which form to the north-east of Mauritius and travel usually on a south-westerly course, passing sometimes to eastward and sometimes to westward, but seldom immediately over the island.

The mean atmospheric pressure varies from 29.919 ins. in February to 30.202 ins. in August, and the mean temperature of the air from 79° in January to 68° in July. (At Curepipe, a town situated on the central plateau, 1,800 ft. above sea-level, the temperature varies from 74° in January to 62° in July). The mean wind direction varies from east in December and January to south-east by east in June; its velocity varies from 10 miles per hour in March to 12.4 miles per hour in August. The rainfall is very variable in different parts of the island; the wettest station is Cluny, in Grand Port, with a mean annual rainfall of 145 ins.; the driest is Albion, on the west coast, with a mean rainfall of 31 ins. The mean monthly rainfall for the whole island decreases from 12 ins. in March to 2.6 ins. in September and October.

In addition to the annual variation there is a marked diurnal variation in all elements; amounting to 0.070 ins. in atmospheric pressure, from 12° in winter to 17° in summer in air temperature, from 25 to 50 per cent. in relative humidity, 7 miles an hour in wind velocity, 20° in wind direction and 0.7 in. in rainfall.

SPECIAL FEATURES IN 1906.

Barometric Pressure.

The barometric pressure decreased, relatively to the normal, until April, oscillated about normal till July, then increased steadily till the end of the year.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Ins. + 0·006	Ins. — 0·023	Ins. — 0·016	Ins. + 0·030

Air Temperature.

Relatively to the normal, the temperature fell generally from February to the end of the year, showing promise of a cold summer. The greatest positive wave culminated at the beginning of March, during the most rapid decrease of pressure relatively to the normal.

The greatest negative wave culminated at the end of the year, and was coincident with the greatest positive wave of pressure.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
+ 0·8°	0·0°	— 0·7°	— 1·5°

Vapour Tension.

The departures from average vapour tension followed the temperature curve very closely, and, inverted, followed the pressure curve approximately.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Ins. + ·052	Ins. — ·028	Ins. — ·007	Ins. — ·033

Relative Humidity.

The abnormality curve of relative humidity followed closely that of the vapour tension, showing greater variation than usual, during the first half of the year.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Per cent. + 2·9	Per cent. — 3·8	Per cent. + 0·5	Per cent. — 0·1

Rainfall.

The rainfall decreased generally, relatively to the normal, from November 1905 to April 1906, with, however, an increase in March. It then increased generally until July, decreasing again until November.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
Per cent. — 23	Per cent. — 38	Per cent. + 44	Per cent. — 12

Wind Velocity.

The wind velocity was again below normal, except in May and July, when it was normal; a large negative wave which culminated in February was coincident with large positive waves of temperature, vapour tension and relative humidity.

(Comparisons made with a small anemometer, tested at the Kew Observatory, indicated that the Observatory Standard gives identical results with Kew Standard at velocities of 11 miles per hour, the mean for Mauritius.)

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
M.p.h. — 2·8	M.p.h. — 1·2	M.p.h. — 1·3	M.p.h. — 1·3

Means and Extremes of Meteorological Elements.

The means and extremes of the various meteorological elements for the year 1906 are given below:—

—	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.
Atmospheric Pressure ...	Ins. 30·069	Ins. 30·370	Ins. 29·376
Air Temperature ...	73·1°	90·1°	51·6°
Relative Humidity ...	Per cent. 75·0	Per cent. 97·8	Per cent. 40·7
Wind Velocity ...	M.p.h. 9·4	M.p.h. 48·0	—
Wind Direction ...	S. 69° E.	—	—
Rainfall ...	Total. 41·66	—	—

Results of Magnetic Observations.

The magnetographs were at work throughout the year, and absolute values of the magnetic elements determined, as a rule, four times a month. The following are the mean results for 1906:—

Declination (west)	...	...	...	9°12'76
Dip (south)	...	...	...	53°52'9
Horizontal force (C.G.S. units)	...	...	...	0·23527
Vertical force (C.G.S. units)	...	...	...	0·32243
Total force (C.G.S. units)	...	...	...	0·39913

The largest magnetic disturbances occurred on July 11-12, August 7-8, September 22-23, December 22-23.

MISCELLANEOUS WORK AT THE ROYAL ALFRED
OBSERVATORY.

Actinometric observations were taken with high and low sun on 42 days, and single observations on 42 other days.

Sixty-three earthquakes were recorded by the Milne seismograph during the year. The hourly measures of the seismograms, which were discontinued at the end of the year 1903, owing to the effect of the lamp used at night to check tremors, were resumed at the beginning of the year 1906, the instrument having been removed to the magnet basement.

Rainfall returns were collected from 64 stations in different parts of the island. The mean rainfall for the whole island during the year was 72·37 ins., as compared with an average of 79·52 inches.

Observations made on board vessels trading with Mauritius were tabulated, and detailed accounts of gales and hurricanes recorded. From observations thus obtained daily synoptic charts were prepared for the hurricane months, and the tracks of five cyclones laid down.

From May to December cablegrams giving a résumé of the weather at Mauritius for the preceding week were, as usual, despatched to the Director-General of Indian Observatories in connexion with the monsoon predictions and monthly cablegrams to the Director of the Geological Survey Department, Cairo.

Photographs of the sun were taken daily when the weather permitted. Spots were observed on 309 days, and faculæ on 314 days.

The installation of an electric time-ball in Port Louis, with the necessary accessories at the Observatory, was commenced in July last, but was not completed by the end of the year.

PUBLICATIONS.

Papers on a connexion between the rainfall at Durban and in Mauritius, and on the errors of minimum thermometers

were published in the Transactions of the South African Philosophical Society.

INTRODUCTION OF STANDARD TIME.

In the month of August an Ordinance was passed by the Council of Government provided for the introduction of standard time (60° East of Greenwich) in Mauritius and its Dependencies on the 1st of January, 1907.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

POSTAL.

The contract with the British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited, was renewed in 1906 for another year for a four-weekly service between Colombo and Mauritius. Besides the British India steamers, our mails to and from the East are conveyed by other British and French steamers. The Messageries Maritimes Company performed their bi-monthly voyages from Marseilles to Mauritius and vice-versâ, calling at Aden, Zanzibar, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Réunion. The mails for and from South African ports were conveyed by the Union Castle steamers.

Statement of letters, postcards, newspapers, and postal parcels, &c., dealt with during the year 1906:—

	Internal	Mail Packets.				Other Vessels.				Total
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From.	To	From.	To.	From.	To.	From.	To.	
Insured Letters	...	—	—	170	51	—	—	—	—	221
Express Delivery	...	17,280	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,280
Post Cards	...	174,436	3,741	5,006	4,758	5,789	—	6,615	2,791	210,124
Paid Letters	...	840,727	191,102	75,304	203,745	146,714	—	14,602	36,468	1,633,805
Unpaid Letters	...	16,424	6,979	261	8,115	3,114	—	131	4,572	41,307
Registered Letters	..	64,579	2,608	4,882	15,028	14,338	—	645	2,963	110,570
Service ..	...	263,648	198	967	2,601	865	—	702	1,512	273,633
Newspapers	...	836,516	111,704	60,419	180,211	129,718	—	4,817	26,471	1,369,401
Postal Parcels	...	7	4,317	771	8,889	1,439	—	—	—	15,423

MONEY ORDERS.

Inland money Orders were issued during the year 1906 for a total sum of Rs. 344,686, against an aggregate sum of Rs. 341,133 during the previous year.

The foreign money orders show the following comparison:—

	Rs.
1905	351,618
1906	318,610

The British postal order system was extended to Mauritius in 1905. Amount sold in 1906 Rs. 7,768, and paid Rs. 4,123.

The total Post Office expenditure for 1906 was Rs. 142,331, as follows:—

	Rs.
Personal emoluments	101,174
Other Charges:—	
Overtime	3,045
Sea and territorial transit	1,060
Maintenance of telegraphs	5,466
Porterage of telegrams	10,571
Uniform	1,623
Gratuities to masters of vessels	2,184
Miscellaneous and special expenditure	17,208
Total	Rs. 142,331

And the total revenue for the same period was Rs. 133,906, collected under the following heads:—

	Rs.
Postal correspondence	94,347
Telegraph receipts	22,255
Commission on money orders (Inland, Foreign, and Indian)	10,170
Postal parcel service	2,358
Transit of correspondence	2,991
Private boxes	1,069
Commission on postal orders	132
Forfeited money orders	569
Miscellaneous	15
Total	Rs. 133,906

IX.

MILITARY (TROOPS AND EXPENDITURE).

The troops in the Colony on 31st December, 1906, numbered 1,394 of all ranks. The total military expenditure, as shown by the following statement, was £147,631, of which the Colony contributed £32,576.

No. of Vote.	Particulars.	Amount.
		£
1	Pay, &c., of the Army	64,839
2	Medical Establishments	2,814
6	Quarterings, Transport, and Remounts ...	18,782
7	Supplies and Clothing	41,561
8	Ordnance Department Establishments, &c. ...	1,608
9	Armaments and Engineer Stores	78
10	Works and Building	9,731
11	Establishments for Military Education ...	399
12	Miscellaneous Effective Services	476
13	War Office and Army Accounts Department ...	1,412
14 to 16	Army non-Effective Services	614
—	Military Works Loan	5,317
	Total	147,631

X.—RAILWAYS.

The earnings of 1906 were Rs. 2,507,411, showing an increase of Rs. 182,587 on those of 1905. These figures are exclusive of Government traffic which amounted to Rs. 180,947 in 1906.

The working expenses in 1906 were Rs. 1,693,284, against Rs. 1,581,749 in 1905, an increase of Rs. 111,535.

The percentage of working expenditure to earnings in 1906 was 62·98, against 63·20 in 1905.

The total length of line open in 1906 was 120 miles—exclusive of sidings.

XI.—RODRIGUES.

The following statements give in a comparative form the value of the imports and exports, and the revenue and expenditure of the Dependency for the last three years:—

Trade.

Year.	Exports.	Imports.
	Rs.	Rs.
1904	201,861	226,190
1905	210,671	180,276
1906	199,375	172,660

The following were the principal exports:—

	1904.	1905.	1906.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Horned Cattle	11,160	3,300	—
Goats	49,188	14,060	12,508
Pigs	9,750	2,525	2,350
Salt Fish	97,933	161,460	143,760
Tobacco	27,300	15,330	13,800

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1904	12,155	30,706
1905	15,450	33,616
1906	15,047	34,333

XII.—GENERAL.

The price of sugar ranged as follows from May, 1906, to April, 1907:—For ordinary white crystallized vesous suitable for the Indian markets:—

Year.	Month.	Prices.
		S. G.
1906	May	7.80
"	June	7.75
"	July	7.70
"	August	8.00
"	September	8.25
"	October	8.25
"	November	7.75
"	December	8.00
1907	January	7.50
"	February	7.75
"	March	7.50 to 7.75
"	April	7.50 to 7.75

GRAHAM BOWEE,

Colonial Secretary.

23rd August, 1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
514	British Guiana	1905-1906
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905-1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"
524	Jamaica	1904-1905
525	Uganda	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906-1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	"
535	Malta	1906-1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906-1907
538	Leeward Islands	"
539	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906-1907
543	Bahamas... ..	"
544	Barbados	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago	"
546	Grenada	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904-5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate	Report on Kenia Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1905-6.
43	Caicos Islands	Fibal.

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1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 581.

MAURITIUS.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 547.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1908.



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1908.

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No. 581.

MAURITIUS.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 547.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Port Louis,
18th August, 1908.

MY LORD,

HEREWITH I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1907, together with the report of the Colonial Secretary thereon.

I have, &c.,

CAVENDISH BOYLE.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

REPORT ON THE MAURITIUS BLUE BOOK FOR 1907.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Comparative statements of revenue and expenditure during the financial years 1906-7 and 1905-6:—

A.—Revenue.

Heads of Revenue.	1906-7.	1905-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Customs	3,600,029.52	3,486,682.04	113,347.48	—
Port, Harbour, and Lighthouse Dues.	283,401.17	263,073.55	20,327.62	—
Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	2,443,766.72	2,530,444.46	—	86,677.74
Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific services and Reimbursements in Aid.	252,058.32	269,353.06	—	17,294.74
Post Office and Telegraphs ...	147,007.49	139,479.45	7,528.04	—
Government Railways ...	2,500,409.10	2,437,510.65	62,898.45	—
Rent of Government Property	61,576.36	64,743.79	—	3,169.43
Interest	890,831.41	936,025.50	—	45,194.09
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	150,362.66	159,865.80	—	9,503.14
Land Sales	175.50	641.33	—	465.83
	10,329,618.25	10,287,821.63	204,101.59	162,304.97
Recovered from Loan Fund ...	—	881,961.58	—	881,961.58
Total	10,329,618.25	11,169,783.21	204,101.59	1,044,266.55
Result—Net decrease ...	—	—	—	840,164.96

The revenue of the financial year 1906-7 therefore exceeded that of the previous year (exclusive of Rs. 881,961.58 recovered from Loan Funds) by Rs. 41,796.62.

B.—Expenditure.

Heads of Service.	1906-7.	1905-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs.
Public Debt (Charges) ...	1,261,001.62	1,264,583.79	—	3,582.17
Pensions	585,281.87	585,799.58	—	517.71
Governor and Legislature ...	96,822.08	94,307.63	2,514.45	—
Colonial Secretariat	56,950.80	58,001.83	—	1,051.03
Treasury	158,831.23	143,451.30	15,379.93	—
Customs	180,386.02	126,542.87	3,843.15	—
Audit	57,028.06	56,273.28	754.78	—
Port and Marine	231,063.02	336,413.87	—	105,350.85
Observatory	21,673.26	21,185.96	487.30	—
Public Library and Museum...	10,205.32	10,426.34	—	221.02
Registrar General	18,017.11	19,751.94	—	1,734.83
Registration and Mortgage ...	43,215.50	43,806.59	—	591.09
Archives	6,824.77	6,794.28	30.49	—
Supreme Court	129,790.07	124,646.68	5,143.39	—
Procureur General	76,052.41	81,627.28	—	5,574.87
District Magistrates	223,889.07	222,764.24	1,124.83	—
Stipendiary Magistrates ...	33,225.73	34,156.32	—	930.59
Ecclesiastical	152,679.21	152,698.96	—	19.75
Brought forward ...	3,292,937.15	3,383,232.74	29,273.2	119,573.91

B.—Expenditure—continued.

Heads of Service.	1 06-7.	1905-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.	Rs. c.
Carried forward ...	3,292,987.15	3,883,232.74	29,278.32	119,573.91
Police ...	551,284.09	553,479.85	—	2,191.76
Prisons ...	166,055.82	165,186.35	869.47	—
Reformatory ...	16,226.33	13,865.62	2,360.71	—
Medical and Health ...	738,360.02	734,705.64	3,654.38	—
Quarantine ...	12,106.32	15,122.09	—	3,015.77
Plague, &c. ...	170,273.93	170,259.49	14.44	—
Royal College ...	210,374.84	202,405.01	8,369.83	—
Primary Education ...	393,715.75	382,345.55	11,370.20	—
Poor ...	227,121.14	202,297.57	24,823.57	—
Storekeeper-General ...	35,952.12	36,665.14	—	713.02
Immigration ...	97,408.23	109,653.89	—	12,245.66
Dependencies, Rodrigues	57,036.65	40,908.91	16,127.74	—
" Oil Islands	14,326.08	14,304.42	21.66	—
Military Expenditure ...	443,184.96	476,550.11	—	33,365.15
Miscellaneous ...	474,780.53	479,079.98	—	4,299.45
Charitable Allowances ...	9,926.86	10,004.20	—	77.34
Interest and Exchange ...	209,760.99	206,845.02	2,915.97	—
Post Office ...	148,614.41	150,079.92	—	1,465.51
Railway Department ...	2,139,921.03	1,741,273.00	398,648.03	—
Forests and Gardens ...	167,495.68	142,377.81	25,117.	—
Public Works and Surveys ...	103,463.81	105,073.61	—	1,609.80
Public Works (Recurrent) ...	477,626.74	530,209.88	—	52,583.14
(Extraordinary)	4,610.76	37,951.18	—	33,340.42
Loan Office ...	11,940.34	12,391.54	—	451.20
Total ...	10,174,508.58	9,915,868.52	523,572.19	264,932.13
Result—Net increase ...	—	—	258,640.06	—

The increase in expenditure in 1906-7 may be attributed chiefly to railway rolling stock indented for in 1905-6 having been supplied and paid for in 1906-7.

POSITION OF THE COLONY AT THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR 1906-7.

	Rs.
Surplus on 1st July, 1906 ...	1,172,195
Excess of revenue over expenditure (1906-7) ...	155,109

Surplus on 30th June, 1907 ... Rs. 1,327,304

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years, and the Treasury balances at the close of each year, were as follows:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Treasury Balances.	Debit Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	£	Rs.
1902-3 ...	9,221,600	9,575,182	1,263,430	—
1903-4 ...	9,473,112	10,664,115	82,247	—
1904-5 ...	10,399,554	10,563,521	—	81,720
1905-6 ...	11,169,783	9,915,868	1,172,195	—
1906-7 ...	10,329,618	10,174,509	155,109	—

During the financial year 1906-7 the Colony of Mauritius was fortunate in reaping a crop producing 217,000 tons of sugar. The consequent comparative prosperity had its effect on the finances of the Government as is apparent from the above financial statements. The increase in the revenue and expenditure of the railway department, for instance, was due to the fact that whilst more was earned by the carriage of sugar on the Government railways, more coal had to be consumed in carrying it, and more overtime paid for.

But for years the passenger traffic has shown a tendency to decline, and the earnings of this very important branch are not so satisfactory as could be wished.

It is not easy to explain this falling off in passenger earnings, and any explanation given must be mainly conjectural, but the following appear to be some amongst other possible explanations:—

1. Increased use of motor cars and bicycles.
2. Increased facilities for local shopping.
3. A lowering of the spending power of all classes.

The last is probably the more important factor, for there can be hardly any doubt but that even in prosperous years the pressure of population in Mauritius reduces the possible earnings of the labouring classes, and that the general tendency of employés of all sorts is in the direction of lower standards of earnings of wages and of living. The pressure of competition compels employers to economise, and the necessity for cheap production requires that the labour bill shall be kept low. It may be said, therefore, that whilst a good year gives more employment, the purchasing power of the community is low and shows a distinct tendency to become lower. The productivity of the Island has almost reached its maximum, the population is on the increase, the wages bill of the community cannot be increased so long as the margin of profit remains low, and there is consequently an increasing competition for the division of a limited wages fund. The economic result so far as the Government finances are concerned must be that whilst the importation of all articles not of prime necessity must diminish, the claims on poor law relief, hospital accommodation, &c., must increase. More sad still, the expenditure on prisons shows an automatic increase, which is still increasing.

It may seem strange to mention the increased use of motor cars in a paragraph describing an increase of poverty, but for some years the draught animals of the Island have been exposed to an epidemic of surra, a disease fatal to all equides, which has forced the Colony into increased use of mechanical traction and means of locomotion.

With an abundant supply of cheap labour the question naturally suggests itself: it is not possible to establish new

industries which could profit by the cheap labour? But it must be remembered that Mauritius is in the Indian Ocean. If labour is cheap in Mauritius it is cheaper still in India. Moreover the necessaries of life are cheaper in India than in Mauritius, for Mauritius lives on Indian rice, and India is not only nearer to any possible market, but has a large home market of its own.

It is impossible to doubt therefore that the financial position of Mauritius must give cause for anxiety and watchfulness, but the sugar industry is still a profitable investment and likely to remain so. There is therefore a sound basis for sound finance, and with proper economy and a gradual lightening of the burdens on productive industry and commerce there is no reason why the Colony should not emerge successfully from the difficulties and trials it has had and still has to sustain.

Assets and Liabilities on 30th June, 1907.

1. Commissioners of Currency:—

	Rs.
Assets	7,073,667
Liabilities	6,876,255
Balance in favour of Commissioners ...	197,412

2. Government savings bank:—

	Rs.
Assets	3,134,574
Liabilities	2,835,470
Balance in favour of bank	299,104

3. Treasury proper:—

	Rs.
Assets	3,637,025
Liabilities	2,309,721
Balance in favour of Treasury	1,327,304

4. Public Debt:—

The public debt stood as follows on 30th June, 1907:—

	£	s.	d.
(1) 6 per cent. railway debenture under Ordinance 15 of 1864 (Matured bond unclaimed)	1,000	0	0
(2) Savanne Railway 4½ per cent. debentures, payable by annual drawings (maturing in 1919)	33,400	0	0
(3) Moka Railway 4 per cent. debentures, payable by annual drawings	500	0	0
Carried forward	34,900	0	0

4. Public Debt—*continued*.

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	34,900	0	0
(4) 4 per cent. debentures conversion loan payable by annual drawings ...	48,300	0	0
(5) Mauritius 4 per cent. inscribed stock, under Ordinances 1 and 22 of 1887, including loan made for Mareaux-Vacoas (£34,000)	482,390	16	0
(6) Hurricane loan 3 per cent. Imperial guaranteed stock, under Ordinance 4 of 1892	600,000	0	0
(7) 3½ per cent. inscribed stock, under Ordinances 31 of 1904 and 39 of 1905	150,000	0	0
	<u>£1,315,590</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>

For the redemption of the debentures and inscribed stock, the several sinking funds and cash balances in the hands of the trustees on the 30th June, 1907, amounted to £235,965, the amount duly provided as required by law.

The sum at the credit of the sinking funds on 30th June, 1907, showed an increase of £18,681 on the previous year.

Currency.

Amount of currency notes on 30th June, 1907:—

	£	s.	d.
Issue of 1848 and 1849 (dollars and cents)...	483	16	5
Issue of 1860 (sterling)	3,405	0	0
	<u>£3,888</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>5</u>

Rupee notes, under Ordinance 28 of 1876:—

	Rs.
1. In the Commissioners' vault	3,261,005
2. In the hands of the public (including the banks and financial officers)	3,615,250
	<u>6,876,255</u>

CHANGES IN TAXATION.

The Customs tariff has been amended by Ordinance No. 5 of 1907, which provides for a reduction of the duty on Hessian cloth when imported for the packing of hemp, and narrows the application of a nominal tariff on machinery or apparatus to the cases where such machinery is imported for the manufacture of any produce of the Colony.

SAVINGS BANK.

The deposits at the Government Savings Bank, at 3 per cent. interest, amounted to Rs. 2,754,763 on 30th June, 1907, as against Rs. 2,850,234 on 30th June, 1906, showing a decrease of Rs. 95,471.

The following return shows the number of depositors, and the amount standing to the credit of the general and the Indian populations at the end of the years 1906-7 and 1905-6:—

	1906-7.		1905-6.	
	No. of Depositors.	Amount.	No. of Depositors.	Amount.
		Rs.		Rs.
General population	15,712	1,571,330	17,629	1,669,038
Indian " " "	10,802	1,183,433	10,054	1,181,196
Total " " "	26,514	2,754,763	27,683	2,850,234

The financial position of the bank on 30th June, 1907, was as follows:—

	Rs.
Investments	3,127,295.37
Cash in hand	7,279.16
Receiver-General (interest due by Treasury for 1906-7)	76,775.00
	3,211,349.53
Liabilities due to depositors and to Treasury	2,931,175.32
Balance in favour of the bank ...	280,174.21

MUNICIPALITY.

Statement of the revenue and expenditure of the municipality of Port Louis for the year ended 31st December, 1907:—

	Rs.
Balance in hand on 1st January, 1907 ...	47,740.16
Revenue, including receipts on account during 1907	553,157.37
	600,897.53
Expenditure, including payments on account during 1907	572,765.21
Balance in hand on 31st December, 1907...	28,132.32

The following is a comparative statement of the normal revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	Rs.		Rs.	
1903	...	422,351	...	451,346
1904	...	501,365	...	502,601
1905	...	548,139	...	492,785
1906	...	537,366	...	510,588
1907	...	512,172	...	502,916

Statement of the debt of the Municipal Corporation of Port Louis on 31st December, 1907, showing provision for payment in 1908:—

Loan.	Amount.			Repayments to be made in 1908.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Conversion Loan	118,700	0	0	1,700	0	0
Electric Lighting Loan	9,333	6	8	333	6	8
	Rs.			Rs.		
Colonial Loan	...	15,600	...	...	7,800	...
Grand River Bridge Loan	...	8,000	...	...	2,000	...
Manure Establishment Loan	...	18,000	...	...	2,000	...
Government Hurricane Loan	...	77,879	...	...	6,487	...
Flood Loan	...	4,167	...	...	4,167	...
Municipality Loan	...	22,000	...	...	2,000	...
Total	...	145,646	...	...	24,454	...

Provision for payment of capital and interest on the above loans has been duly made in the annual budget of the Corporation.

Besides the Municipal Council of Port Louis, which is an elective assembly, there are three township boards: Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes, appointed annually by the Governor to administer the affairs of those places.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, CUREPIPE.

Comparative statement of revenue and expenditure for last five years:—

	Half-year. 1903.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	35,536	82,772	68,934	65,776	67,496
Expenditure	34,261	81,158	67,729	64,740	66,885

The debt of the Curepipe Board amounts to Rs. 66,625.*

* Provision is made annually for repayment.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, BEAU BASSIN AND ROSE HILL.

Comparative statement of revenue and expenditure for last five years:—

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	29,270	29,345	26,645	26,831	30,995
Expenditure	29,235	26,260	28,187	25,783	30,164

The Beau Bassin and Rose Hill Board is indebted to the extent of Rs. 9,500 to Government.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, QUATRE BORNES.

Comparative statement of revenue and expenditure for last five years:—

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	15,461	12,725	12,549	13,202	12,957
Expenditure	14,000	13,274	12,572	12,416	12,800

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following statements show the value of goods imported into, and exported from Mauritius during the year 1907:—

Imports.

Countries.	Value in Rupees of Total Imports, exclusive of Charges and Exchange.	Charges and Exchange.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	4,442,062	3,518,737	7,960,799
British Possessions	13,600,784	3,071,137	16,671,921
Foreign Countries	3,756,041	2,772,334	6,528,375
Total	21,798,887*	9,362,208	31,161,095

* Including bullion and specie, Rs. 2,628,821.

Exports.

Countries.	Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	Shipping Charges on Produce and Manufacture of the Colony.	British, Foreign, and other Colonial Produce.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	6,264,506	355,651	404,458	7,024,615
British Possessions ...	32,533,962	2,071,756	2,686,200	37,291,918
Foreign Countries ...	1,679,645	91,030	260,508	2,031,183
Total ...	40,478,113*	2,518,437	3,351,166	46,347,716

* Including bullion and specie, Rs. 2,683,935.

Comparative statement showing the total value of imports and exports for the last five years:—

Year.	Imports (including charges and exchange).	Exports (exclusive of shipping charges on local produce and manufacture).
	Rs.	Rs.
1903 ...	39,269,847	35,670,597
1904 ...	35,416,624	42,005,674
1905 ...	26,944,399	34,728,022
1906 ...	29,588,255	38,759,826
1907 ...	31,161,095	43,829,280

Comparative Statement of the Value of the Chief Imports and Exports.

Articles.	Imports including charges and exchange.		Exports.			
			1907.		1906.	
	1907.	1906.	Home produce, exclusive of shipping charges.	Foreign produce.	Home produce, exclusive of shipping charges.	Foreign produce.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Animals	1,343,526	933,952	85	1,600	—	500
Apothecary wares ..	159,393	181,546	—	1,469	2	1,892
Apparel, wearing ..	131,479	138,336	—	1,828	25	2,438
Bags and pockets ..	1,081,044	1,268,363	2,748	13,577	2,200	8,005
Bicycles	14,644	13,814	—	115	—	325
Brass and copper wares ..	27,458	49,281	—	98,888	—	50,074
Coals	1,655,615	1,788,351	—	140	—	—
Clocks and watches ..	11,742	13,518	—	150	—	2,026
Corn, grain, meal, &c. ..	9,953,956	9,723,245	2,630	7,558	12	58,455
Cotton manufactures ..	981,669	1,759,327	—	1,050	—	29,749
Earthen and china wares	56,061	61,886	—	106	—	534
Fibre—aloe	—	—	948,465	—	709,233	—
Carried forward ..	15,427,187	15,931,619	953,928	126,481	711,472	153,798

*Comparative Statement of the Value of the Chief Imports
and Exports—continued.*

Articles.	Imports, including charges and exchange.		Exports.			
			1907.		1906.	
	1907.	1906.	Home produce, exclusive of shipping charges.	Foreign produce.	Home produce, exclusive of shipping charges.	Foreign produce
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Brought forward..	15,427,187	15,931,619	953,928	126,481	711,472	153,798
Glass and glasswares ...	40,875	73,206	—	582	—	1,370
Haberdashery	595,660	648,274	—	3,833	—	14,253
Hardware and cutlery ..	1,172,907	1,539,362	2,394	52,368	1,129	25,791
Hats	71,598	71,143	—	—	—	185
Leather, wrought and un- wrought.	215,682	209,264	111,592	949	47,406	16,508
Machinery for agricultural purposes.	396,318	333,308	—	6,875	—	—
Machinery and mill-work	472,818	410,038	18,512	400	—	9,453
Manures and fertilisers ..	2,340,608	2,412,549	—	—	—	1,258
Malt liquors, wines and spirits.	933,271	1,104,905	30,426	1,661	10,647	3,315
Matches	86,671	37,217	—	490	—	3,003
Molasses	—	—	358,486	—	545,083	—
Meat, fresh and frozen ..	29,839	128,778	—	—	—	—
Oils—of all kinds	1,057,245	851,013	18,158	36,809	98,876	69,176
Painters' colours	88,803	102,774	—	192	—	657
Paper, cigarette	62,488	35,658	—	—	—	—
Provisions—preserved ..	1,605,878	1,791,513	29,476	19,969	37,461	23,571
Seeds—of all sorts	68,746	64,312	1,131	235	335	3,126
Soap	379,932	219,388	—	2,992	—	1,033
Stationery	127,057	99,780	—	397	—	1,255
Sugar	481	19,850	38,884,537	3	35,226,267	—
Timber and woodenware	809,576	1,070,771	755	3,386	1,860	4,428
Tobacco	426,145	412,024	—	829	—	1,818
Toys	40,201	42,539	—	—	—	—
Umbrellas and parasols ..	38,887	34,339	—	6	—	45
Vanilla	—	—	43,935	—	28,805	—
Woollen manufactures ..	132,390	154,320	—	—	—	187
Miscellaneous	1,414,387	830,837	24,784	363,322	46,685	224,750
Baggage and postal parcels	570,411	335,495	—	21,052	—	35,743
Total ..	28,401,081	28,967,276	40,478,114	667,231	37,155,826	595,023
Bullion and specie	2,760,014	620,979	—	2,683,935	—	1,008,977
Total .. Rs.	31,161,095	29,588,255	40,478,114	3,351,166	37,155,826	1,604,000

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

(General Remarks.)

The general lesson to be gathered from the imports is that the United Kingdom is being pressed hard by the competition of Germany, Belgium, and France. But this competition cannot be taken as evidence of any falling off on the part of the United Kingdom; it is due rather to the shortness of cash in Mauritius. The superiority of English articles is generally admitted, and experience has taught, or is teaching, that nothing is so expensive as a cheap article; but a general scarcity of money deprives purchasers of any real choice. If, for instance, a clock is required by a purchaser, he, as a rule, selects the cheaper article under the conviction that it will last his time. It is the same with hardware and cutlery: the better article is

purchased only by people who can afford it. Similarly it will be noticed that although English matches are generally recognised as the best in the world, none, or practically none, are imported; the cheap foreign matches are preferred. But in partially-manufactured articles, such as iron bars, the United Kingdom seems to be more than holding its own; in such articles the question of quality does not arise to the same extent as in fully manufactured goods.

Broadly speaking it would not be incorrect to say that purchasers prefer the English articles when they can afford them, and it is noticeable that in such articles as automobiles, steam road engines, locomotives, wagons, and trucks, and wire rope for agricultural purposes the United Kingdom supplied articles to the value of Rs. 14,454 in 1907, against nil in 1906. Planters are beginning to learn that cheap articles are not profitable.

It might be well also to call attention to the falling off in the importation of cocoa and chocolate from the United Kingdom, and the increase in the importation from Germany. The amounts are small, but they suggest the enquiry whether this trade is in any way affected by the sugar duty

IMPORTS.

(Detailed Remarks.)

Acids.

Carbolic.—The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 2,549, of the value of Rs. 747, against kilos 7,080, of the value of Rs. 1,763 in 1906, showing a decrease both in weight of kilos 4,531 and in value of Rs. 1,016. The decrease was chiefly due to the United Kingdom, which supplied kilos 4,954 less than in 1906, with a shortage in value of Rs. 1,084.

Kilos 408, of the value of Rs. 80, were received from Belgium in 1907, against nil in 1906.

Phosphoric.—This article was exclusively received from the United Kingdom, which supplied kilos 14,547 more than in 1906, with a surplus of Rs. 4,622 in value.

Sulphuric.—Compared with 1906, the imports for 1907 showed a decrease in weight of kilos 10,876, with a shortage of Rs. 3,946 in value. The decrease was due principally to France, which supplied kilos 10,154 less than in 1906, with a shortage of Rs. 3,809 in value.

Ammonia, Sulphate

Exclusively received from the United Kingdom, which supplied kilos 4,516,831, of the value of Rs. 990,890 in 1907, against kilos 4,300,071, of the value of Rs. 954,650 in the preceding year, showing an increase both in weight of kilos 216,760 and in value of Rs. 36,240.

Apothecaries' Wares.

The imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 155,907, against Rs. 177,775 in 1906, showing a falling off of Rs. 21,868. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 2,311), Continental India (Rs. 1,651), China (Rs. 819), and France (Rs. 15,668). Australia and Belgium provided for Rs. 1,689 and Rs. 3,472 respectively in 1906, against nil in 1907. Increases were from Germany (Rs. 1,359), the United States (Rs. 1,579), and Switzerland (Rs. 505).

Apparel, Wearing.

The imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 131,479, against Rs. 138,336 in 1906, showing a decrease of Rs. 6,857. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 4,700), China (Rs. 5,980), France (Rs. 2,514), and Pondichery (Rs. 12,195). Increases were from Continental India (Rs. 9,115), Germany (Rs. 6,537), Switzerland (Rs. 3,421), and Japan.

Beef, Salted.

Kilos 50,215, of the value of Rs. 26,433, were imported in 1907, against kilos 291,058, of the value of Rs. 144,585 in 1906. The imports therefore show a decrease both in weight of kilos 240,843, and in value of Rs. 118,152, due chiefly to short supplies from the United States, which provided kilos 225,835 less, with a decrease of Rs. 110,233 in value. The United Kingdom and Australia supplied kilos 13,081, valued at Rs. 7,057, and kilos 3,211, valued at Rs. 1,479 respectively in 1906, against nil in 1907, while small supplies were received from France and Madagascar in 1907, against nil in the previous year.

Beer and Ale.

In casks.—There was a decrease of hectolitres 1,923 in measure, and of Rs. 43,435 in value. This article was exclusively imported from the United Kingdom.

In bottles.—There was a decrease of 16,150 litres in quantity, with a shortage of Rs. 8,229 in value. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 8,034), France (Rs. 837), Germany, and Holland. From Denmark there was an increase of Rs. 1,034.

Bicycles.

166 bicycles, of the value of Rs. 14,643, were imported in 1907, against 140, of the value of Rs. 13,814, in 1906: there was an increase of 26 in number, and of Rs. 829 in value. The United Kingdom supplied 10 more with a shortage, however, of Rs. 1,025 in value. In 1907 Switzerland supplied 11, of the value of Rs. 1,417, and Germany 3, of the value of Rs. 246, against nil in 1906.

Blue-Ultramarine.

In 1907, kilos 1,687, of the value of Rs. 1,351, were imported, against kilos 2,416, of the value of Rs. 1,324, in 1906. There was therefore a decrease in weight of kilos 729, with a surplus of Rs. 27 in value. From Germany kilos 1,075 less were received in 1907, with a shortage of Rs. 515 in value. France supplied kilos 366 more, with a surplus of Rs. 519 in value.

Books, Printed.

Increase both in weight of kilos 2,420, and in value of Rs. 3,719. The United Kingdom and France showed increases of Rs. 1,204 and Rs. 3,245 in value respectively. From Continental India there was a decrease of Rs. 1,293.

Brass Ornaments.

Compared with 1906 the imports in 1907 showed a decrease of Rs. 3,070, due principally to Continental India, which provided for a less value of Rs. 4,505. The United Kingdom showed an increase of Rs. 1,496.

Bricks and Tiles.

In 1906 the United Kingdom supplied 327,126 pieces, of the value of Rs. 19,987, Natal 29,675 pieces, of the value of Rs. 657, and France 2,026 pieces, of the value of Rs. 323, aggregating 358,827 in number, and Rs. 20,967 in value, against 165,578 pieces, of the value of Rs. 8,107 received exclusively from the United Kingdom in 1907. There was therefore a decrease of 193,249 in number, and of Rs. 12,860 in value, due principally to short supplies from the United Kingdom.

Bullion (Silver).

Decrease both in weight of kilos 195-300 grs. and in value of Rs. 13,520, due chiefly to Continental India, which supplied kilos 197-300 grs. less, with a shortage of Rs. 13,672 in value.

Butter.

The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 54,666, of the value of Rs. 133,257, against in the previous year kilos 20,895, of the value of Rs. 52,714, showing an increase both in weight of kilos 33,771, and in value of Rs. 80,543.

Increases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 13,237), Australia (Rs. 3,656), Belgium (Rs. 925), Denmark (Rs. 51,059), France (Rs. 12,753), Italy (Rs. 828), and Holland Rs. 271). Continental India provided for Rs. 253 in 1907, against nil in 1906, while Germany provided for Rs. 2,438 in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Cabinet and Upholstery Wares.

Compared with 1906 the imports in 1907 showed a decrease of Rs. 3,866. Decreases were chiefly from the United Kingdom (Rs. 2,876), Singapore (Rs. 667), China (Rs. 652), France (Rs. 3,370), and Germany (Rs. 326). The United States and Austria showed increases of Rs. 1,108 and Rs. 2,496 respectively.

Candles.

Composition.—Increase both in weight of kilos 14,844 and in value of Rs. 14,326. Increases were from Continental India (Rs. 3,480) and France (Rs. 14,728). The United Kingdom and Belgium showed decreases of Rs. 1,766 and Rs. 2,116 respectively.

Caoutchouc and India-rubber.

Manufactured.—Kilos 1,729 less, with a shortage of Rs. 13,484 in value, were received from the United Kingdom.

Carriages.

Five, of the value of Rs. 2,044, were received in 1907, against 11, of the value of Rs. 6,146, in 1906. There was a decrease of 6 in number and of Rs. 4,102 in value. The United Kingdom and the United States show decreases of Rs. 1,826 and Rs. 1,055 in value. France supplied 4 carriages, of the value of Rs. 1,742, in 1906, against nil in 1907, while Canada supplied 1, of the value of Rs. 521, in 1907, against nil in the previous year.

Carts and Waggon.

Three, of the value of Rs. 214, were received in 1907 from the United States, against nil in 1906.

Cement.

Compared with 1906 the imports in 1907 show a decrease of kilos 105,185 in weight, with a shortage of Rs. 6,254 in value, due specially to France, which provided kilos 208,000 less, with a shortage of Rs. 7,236 in value.

Chocolate and Cocoa.

Kilos 12,634, of the value of Rs. 22,467, were imported in 1907, against kilos 21,648, of the value of Rs. 33,474, in the previous year. There was therefore a decrease both in weight of kilos 9,014, and of Rs. 11,007 in value; France, the United Kingdom, and Belgium showing decreases of Rs. 7,635, Rs. 2,236, and Rs. 2,750 respectively in value. There was, however, an increase of Rs. 1,654 in value from Germany

Clocks and Watches.

2,631 pieces, of the value of Rs. 11,741, were imported in 1907, against 2,476 pieces, of the value of Rs. 13,518 in the previous year. There was therefore an increase of 155 in number with a shortage of Rs. 1,777 in value. The United Kingdom supplied 103 pieces less with a shortage of Rs. 447 in value; France supplied 138 pieces less with a shortage of Rs. 1,345 in value. Germany supplied 377 pieces more with a surplus of Rs. 876 only in value. The United States supplied 8 pieces less with a shortage of Rs. 1,054 in value. Switzerland supplied 30 pieces more with a surplus of Rs. 221 in value.

Coals.

The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 45,375,727, of the value of Rs. 1,655,615, against kilos 48,945,018, of the value of Rs. 1,788,351 in the previous year, showing a decrease both in weight of kilos 3,569,291, and of Rs. 132,736 in value. From the United Kingdom kilos 7,430 more were received with, however, a shortage of Rs. 73,056 in value; from Natal kilos 13,748,510 more with a surplus of Rs. 396,256 in value; from Australia kilos 14,217,031 less were received with a shortage of Rs. 387,701 in value; from Continental India kilos 3,241,042 less were received with a shortage of Rs. 70,925 in value; Cape Colony and Transvaal provided kilos 46,736, of the value of Rs. 1,559, and kilos 106,426, of the value of Rs. 1,920 respectively, in 1907, against nil in the previous year, while Belgium supplied kilos 20,320, of the value of Rs. 790, in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Confectionery.

The imports in 1907, as compared with the previous year, show a decrease of Rs. 12,425. Decreases were chiefly from the United Kingdom (Rs. 1,458), Australia (Rs. 4,024), France (Rs. 5,122), China (Rs. 945), and Reunion (Rs. 657).

Copper.

Old.—Exclusively received from the United Kingdom, which supplied kilos 6,556 less, with a shortage of Rs. 4,557 in value, as compared with 1906.

Sheets and Nails—(red).—Shortage of kilos 7,427 in weight, and of Rs. 11,152 in value, due chiefly to short supplies from the United Kingdom. France provided for Rs. 616 less than in 1906.

Cordage.

Coir.—Compared with 1906, kilos 17,194 less, with a shortage of Rs. 2,061 in value were received in 1907, due chiefly to more supplies from Continental India. The United Kingdom

supplied kilos 3,099, of the value of Rs. 1,956, in 1907, against nil in the previous year.

Oiled.—Kilos 9,799 more, with a surplus of Rs. 3,352 in value, were received in 1907. The increase was due chiefly to more supplies from Continental India.

Hemp.—Kilos 7,524 less, with a shortage of Rs. 3,311 in value, were received in 1907. Continental India shows a decrease of Rs. 8,274, but Hong Kong a surplus of Rs. 5,250 in value.

Cordials and Liquors.

Litres 5,358, of the value of Rs. 14,697, were received in 1907, against litres 8,340, of the value of Rs. 21,485 in the previous year. There was therefore a decrease of 2,982 litres in quantity and of Rs. 6,788 in value, due principally to France, which supplied for a less value of Rs. 7,159. Small decreases are from the United Kingdom, China, Spain, and Denmark.

Corn Flour.

There was a decrease of kilos 8,594 in weight, with a shortage of Rs. 4,345 in value, as compared with the importation in 1906, due principally to smaller supplies from the United Kingdom.

Corn, Grain, and Meal.

Rice.—The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 59,430,743, of the value of Rs. 7,497,693, against kilos 60,787,183, of the value of Rs. 6,865,624, in the previous year. There was therefore a decrease of kilos 1,356,440 in weight, but an increase of Rs. 632,069 in value, accountable as under:—

Continental India.—Decrease of kilos 981,864 in weight, but increase of Rs. 653,366 in value.

China.—Decrease both in weight of kilos 157,348 and in value of Rs. 16,659.

Madagascar.—Decrease both in weight of kilos 3,078 and in value of Rs. 1,035.

Straits Settlements.—Increase both in weight of kilos 619,000 and in value of Rs. 96,511.

Cochin China.—Decrease both in weight of kilos 1,801,500 and in value of Rs. 215,654.

Singapore.—Increase both in weight of kilos 968,350 and in value of Rs. 115,540.

Wheat.—Compared with the previous year, the imports in 1907 show a decrease both in weight of kilos 378,577 and in value of Rs. 41,898, due principally to short supplies from Continental India.

Wheat Flour.—Compared with 1906, the importation in 1907 shows a decrease in weight of kilos 2,116,203 and in value of Rs. 187,563, accountable as under:—

From Australia: decrease both in weight of kilos 2,174,204 and in value of Rs. 291,158.

From Continental India: decrease in weight of kilos 301,667, but increase in value of Rs. 44,961.

The Argentine Confederation supplied kilos 363,606, of the value of Rs. 59,370, in 1907, against nil in 1906.

Cotton Manufactures.

Coloured.—2,131,792 metres, of the value of Rs. 429,682, were imported in 1907, against 5,454,328 metres of the value of Rs. 831,121 in 1906. There was a decrease of 3,322,536 metres in measure, and of Rs. 401,439 in value, due specially to the United Kingdom, which showed a decrease of Rs. 396,105. Belgium, France, Italy, and Pondichery showed also decreases of Rs. 5,639, Rs. 7,280, Rs. 1,057, and Rs. 837 respectively. Increases were from Continental India (Rs. 6,539), Germany (Rs. 1,086), and Switzerland (Rs. 2,169).

Hosiery.—There was a decrease of Rs. 6,427 in the importation of 1907, as compared with the previous year, due to short supplies from Germany and the United Kingdom, amounting to Rs. 5,347 and Rs. 905 respectively.

Plain.—3,764,911 metres, of the value of Rs. 501,830, were imported in 1907, against 4,937,394 metres, of the value of Rs. 862,577, in 1906: there was therefore a decrease of 1,172,483 metres in measure and of Rs. 360,747 in value. The United Kingdom, Continental India, and France showed decreases amounting to Rs. 348,684, Rs. 4,995, and Rs. 8,851 respectively in value. From Switzerland there was an increase of Rs. 2,694.

Thread for sewing.—The United Kingdom supplied kilos 2,808 less, with a shortage of Rs. 9,292 in value, during the year 1907. From France, kilos 16, valued Rs. 75, were received in 1907, against nil in 1906.

Eastern and China Wares.

323,188 pieces, of the value of Rs. 56,£60, were received in 1907, against 475,367 pieces, of the value of Rs. 61,886, in the previous year, thus showing a decrease of 152,179 pieces in number, and of Rs. 5,226 in value. Decreases were from Austria (Rs. 2,834), Belgium (Rs. 409), China (Rs. 958), France (Rs. 13,286), Continental India (Rs. 125), Singapore, and Switzerland. Increases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 11,085) and Germany (Rs. 1,322).

Glass.

Bottles (empty).—9,411 bottles less, with a shortage of Rs. 616 in value, were received in 1907. The United Kingdom

supplied 2,714 bottles more, with a falling off of Rs. 55 in value. France supplied 12,125 bottles less, with a shortage of Rs. 561 in value.

Looking Mirrors.—2,746 pieces less, with a shortage of Rs. 2,222 in value, were received in 1907. Decreases were from Continental India (Rs. 208), France (Rs. 2,273), the United Kingdom (Rs. 369), Germany (Rs. 299), and China. From Belgium there was an increase of Rs. 1,034. Hong Kong provided for Rs. 260 in 1906, against nil in 1907, while Switzerland provided for Rs. 121 in 1907, against nil in the previous year.

Windows.—5,208 metres more were received in 1907 with, however, a shortage of Rs. 691 in value. The United Kingdom supplied 4,566 metres more, with a surplus of Rs. 894 only in value. Belgium supplied 216 metres less, with a shortage of Rs. 956 in value. France supplied 586 metres more with, however, a shortage of Rs. 715 in value.

Glassware.

The imports in 1907, as compared with the previous year, show a decrease of 42,293 pieces in quantity, and of Rs. 14,261 in value. The United Kingdom, Austria, and France show decreases of Rs. 3,606, Rs. 1,214, and Rs. 12,871 respectively, in value, and Germany an increase of Rs. 4,584 in value.

Haberdashery.

Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show a decrease of Rs. 55,822. Decreases were from Continental India (Rs. 8,487), China (Rs. 1,609), France (Rs. 59,745), Japan (Rs. 964), and Hong Kong. Increases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 623), Austria (Rs. 1,076), Belgium (Rs. 1,921), Germany (Rs. 1,042), Holland (Rs. 3,844), and Switzerland (Rs. 5,992).

Hardware and Cutlery.

The imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 744,119, against Rs. 1,021,629, in 1906, showing a decrease of Rs. 276,510. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 247,123), continental India (Rs. 1,223), Austria (Rs. 601), Belgium (Rs. 17,669), China (Rs. 318), Holland (Rs. 316), Germany (Rs. 5,134), the United States (Rs. 7,054), and Sweden (Rs. 268). Australia, Hong Kong, Pondichery, and Japan supplied small quantities in 1906, against nil in 1907. Switzerland and France show increases of Rs. 2,391 and Rs. 641 respectively.

India Rubber Wares.

The imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 20,087, against Rs. 24,542 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 4,455 in value. The United Kingdom shows a decrease of Rs. 6,800 and France a surplus of Rs. 2,082 in value.

Iron.

Bars.—The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 643,846, of the value of Rs. 90,644, against kilos 703,755, of the value of Rs. 86,974, in 1906, showing a decrease of kilos 59,909 in weight, but a surplus of Rs. 3,670 in value. The United Kingdom shows an increase of kilos 33,047 in weight and of Rs. 13,079 in value, and Belgium a decrease of kilos 93,069 in weight and of Rs. 9,443 in value.

Nails.—The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 112,318, of the value of Rs. 31,437, against kilos 186,445, of the value of Rs. 49,931 in 1906, showing a decrease of kilos 74,127 in weight, and of Rs. 18,494 in value; the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, and Germany showing decreases of Rs. 14,339, Rs. 3,104, Rs. 210, and Rs. 1,741 respectively. Norway supplied for Rs. 655 in 1907, against nil in the previous year.

Sheets.—The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 516,199, of the value of Rs. 106,662, against kilos 634,234, of the value of Rs. 124,253, in 1906, showing a decrease of kilos 118,035 in weight and of Rs. 17,591 in value. From the United Kingdom there was a decrease of kilos 116,690 in weight and of Rs. 17,368 in value. Belgium provided for Rs. 224 in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Wrought, of other sorts.—Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show an increase of kilos 175,557 in weight and of Rs. 13,676 in value, due specially to the United Kingdom, which supplied kilos 195,647 more, with a surplus of Rs. 16,505 in value. From Belgium there was a decrease of kilos 19,966 in weight and of Rs. 2,815 in value.

Jewellery.

The imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 71,807, against Rs. 41,198 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 30,609 in value. Increases were from Switzerland (Rs. 2,910), Continental India (Rs. 1,082), France (Rs. 25,956), and Germany (Rs. 4,808). The United Kingdom and Pondichery show decreases of Rs. 2,278 and Rs. 625 respectively. Austria provided for Rs. 1,156 in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Juice of Lemon or Lime.

Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show a decrease of 189 hectolitres in measure, and of Rs. 2,207 in value, due principally to the United Kingdom, which provided 187 hectolitres less, with a shortage of Rs. 2,093 in value.

Lead.

Sheets and Pipes.—Exclusively received from the United Kingdom, which shows a decrease of kilos 18,897 in weight, and of Rs. 3,430 in value, as compared with 1906.

Leather.

Wrought, Boots, and Shoes.—35,059 pairs, of the value of Rs. 101,532, were received in 1907, against 42,048 pairs, of the value of Rs. 87,974, in the previous year, showing a decrease of 6,989 pairs in quantity, but an increase of Rs. 13,558 in value, accountable as under:—

From the United Kingdom: Increase of 4,303 pairs and of Rs. 18,020 in value.

From Continental India: Decrease of 9,958 pairs and of Rs. 3,132 in value.

From France: Decrease of 530 pairs, but increase of Rs. 2,076 in value.

From Pondichery: 549 pairs, of the value of Rs. 401, were received in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Sole.—Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show a decrease of kilos 3,463 in weight, and of Rs. 5,685 in value, due to Australia, which provided kilos 3,466 less, with a shortage of Rs. 5,708 in value.

Wrought, of other sorts.—The value of the imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 72,904, against Rs. 74,799, in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 1,895. The United Kingdom and France showed decreases of Rs. 3,850 and Rs. 1,106 respectively; from Germany there was an increase of Rs. 2,068.

Linen Manufactures.

Canvas.—Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show a decrease of kilos 10,567 in weight, and of Rs. 11,349 in value, due to the United Kingdom, which provided kilos 11,558 less, with a shortage of Rs. 13,045 in value. France supplied kilos 1,096, of the value of Rs. 1,633 in 1907, against nil in 1906.

Plain.—In 1907 the United Kingdom supplied metres 9,653, of the value of Rs. 1,797, while in 1906 Pondichery supplied 1,000 metres, of the value of Rs. 145. There was a decrease of 8,653 metres in quantity and of Rs. 1,652 in value.

Machinery and Mill-work.

Machinery and Mill-work.—The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 2,341,078, of the value of Rs. 472,818, against kilos 681,625, of the value of Rs. 410,038 in the previous year, showing an increase of kilos 1,659,453 in weight, and of Rs. 62,780 in value, due principally to the United Kingdom, which shows an increase of kilos 1,663,391 in weight, and of Rs. 55,364 in value. Belgium and France provided kilos 1,189 more, with a surplus of Rs. 2,547 and kilos 2,421 more, with a surplus of Rs. 3,394 respectively, in value. Germany shows a decrease of kilos 7,548 in weight, but an increase of Rs. 1,476 in value.

Machinery consisting of automobiles, steam road engines, locomotives, wagons and trucks, rails and accessories, and wire

rope for agricultural purposes.—The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 2,424,377, of the value of Rs. 361,691, against kilos 2,095,676, of the value of Rs. 333,308, in the previous year, showing an increase of kilos 328,701 in weight, and of Rs. 28,383 in value. From Belgium there was an increase of kilos 255,266 and of Rs. 25,633; from Germany there was an increase of kilos 59,033 in weight, but a decrease of Rs. 10,693 in value; from France there was a decrease of kilos 21,305 in weight, and of Rs. 1,011 in value. The United Kingdom supplied kilos 35,707, of the value of Rs. 14,454, in 1907, against nil in the previous year.

Margarine.

Kilos 38,113, of the value of Rs. 34,810, were received in 1907, against kilos 45,415, of the value of Rs. 44,315, in 1906, showing a decrease of kilos 7,302 in weight, and of Rs. 9,505 in value. Decreases were from Denmark (Rs. 1,315), Germany (Rs. 1,641), Holland (Rs. 4,765), and the United States (Rs. 3,904). The United Kingdom, however, shows an increase of Rs. 2,120.

Matches.

Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show an increase of gross 30,171, with a surplus of Rs. 49,454 in value. Japan Sweden, and Austria supplied for surplus, quantities of 16,900 gross, 11,966 gross, and 675 gross, with increases in value of Rs. 34,232, Rs. 13,380, and Rs. 862 respectively. Belgium supplied 500 gross, of the value of Rs. 585, in 1906, against nil in 1907, while from Germany were received 1,875 gross, of the value of Rs. 2,169, in 1907, against nil in the previous year. China shows a decrease of 750 gross in quantity and of Rs. 630 in value.

Meat : Fresh, Frozen.

There was a substantial decrease in the importation of the article from Australia, as frozen meat does not appear to be appreciated by the population, and is now almost exclusively imported for the military, with whom the owners of the Frozen Meat Store are under contract. The decrease was as under:—

Cows and Oxen.—Only 98 carcasses, of the value of Rs. 23,003, were received in 1907, against 576, of the value of Rs. 109,696, in the previous year. Decrease: 478 in number and Rs. 86,693 in value.

Sheep.—Only 676 carcasses, of the value of Rs. 6,788, were imported in 1907, against 1,087, of the value of Rs. 14,856, in 1906. Decrease: 411 in number and Rs. 8,068 in value.

Swine.—None was received in 1907, against 143 carcasses, of the value of Rs. 4,226, in the previous year.

Poultry.—Poultry to the value of Rs. 68 were received in 1907, against nil in 1906.

Military Articles.

The value of the importation in 1907 amounted to Rs. 707,107, against Rs. 694,987, in 1906, showing an increase of Rs. 12,120 in value. From the United Kingdom there was an increase of Rs. 100,053, while from Continental India there was a decrease of Rs. 84,705. The United States provided for Rs. 3,622 in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Motor Cars.

Thirteen motor cars, of the value of Rs. 50,023, were received in 1907, against 8, of the value of Rs. 29,452, in the previous year, or an increase of 5 in number and of Rs. 20,571 in value. The United Kingdom supplied 10 more, with a surplus of Rs. 39,687 in value. From France, 5 less, with a shortage of Rs. 19,116 in value were received.

Painters', Dyers' Colours and Materials.

Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show a decrease of Rs. 13,971, due specially to the United Kingdom, which provided for a less value of Rs. 13,669. France and Germany show slight increases, while slight decreases are noticeable under China, Continental India, and Australia.

Paper.

Cigarette.—Compared with the previous year, the imports in 1907 show an increase of kilos 5,090 in weight and of Rs. 26,830 in value, due principally to France, which provided kilos 4,951 more, with a surplus of Rs. 26,967 in value. Germany supplied kilos 125, of the value of Rs. 309 in 1906, against kilos 315, of the value of Rs. 398 in 1907.

Packing.—Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show a falling off of Rs. 7,978, due to France, which provided for Rs. 12,589 less. From the United Kingdom there was an increase of Rs. 2,069, while Germany provided for Rs. 2,995 in 1907, against Rs. 544 in 1906.

Plated and Gilded Wares.

Compared with the previous year, the imports in 1907 show an increase of Rs. 7,567 in value, due principally to France, which shows an increase of Rs. 6,653. From Germany also there was an increase of Rs. 1,000, while the United Kingdom and Switzerland show decreases of Rs. 262 and Rs. 136 respectively. Austria provided for Rs. 400 in 1907, against nil in 1906.

Postal Parcels.

The value of parcels imported shows an increase of Rs. 21,565 as compared with 1906. Increases were specially from the United Kingdom (Rs. 5,105), France (Rs. 4,658), Continental India (Rs. 5,192), Reunion (Rs. 987), Switzerland (Rs. 3,774), and Egypt (Rs. 468). Decreases were from Germany (Rs. 2,342), the United States (Rs. 910), Cape Colony (Rs. 149), and Natal (Rs. 42).

Saddlery and Harness.

The imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 3,751, against Rs. 5,823, in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 2,072 in value, due to short supplies from the United Kingdom.

Silk Manufactures.

Satin and Ribbons.—Metres 810 more, with a surplus of Rs. 2,971 in value, were received in 1907. The United Kingdom, France, and Japan show increases of Rs. 1,470, Rs. 2,713, and Rs. 1,538, respectively. Continental India, China, and Germany show decreases of Rs. 982, Rs. 523, and Rs. 631, respectively.

Soap: Ordinary.

The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 1,344,441, of the value of Rs. 379,932, against kilos 978,195, of the value of Rs. 219,388, in the previous year, showing an increase of kilos 366,246 in weight, and of Rs. 160,544 in value. The United Kingdom supplied kilos 368,652 more, with an increase of Rs. 161,241 in value. France provided for Rs. 659 in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Specie.

Gold.—The United Kingdom provided in 1907 for Rs. 5,854 more than in the previous year.

Silver.—The imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 2,707,295, against Rs. 560,646, in 1906, showing an increase of Rs. 2,146,649. Increases were from Continental India (Rs. 2,042,500) and France (Rs. 103,844). The United Kingdom provided for Rs. 304 in 1907, against nil in 1906.

Spirits.

Brandy.—There was a decrease of litres 26,033 in measure, and of Rs. 46,483 in value, due specially to France, which supplied litres 26,279 less, with a shortage of Rs. 44,012, in value. The United Kingdom also shows a decrease of litres 1,534 in measure, and of Rs. 3,075 in value. Holland supplied litres 1,968, of the value of Rs. 845, in 1907, against nil in the

previous year, while small quantities were supplied by Australia and Germany in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Whisky.—The imports in 1907 amounted to litres 30,656, of the value of Rs. 53,031, against litres 46,862, of the value of Rs. 76,690, in 1906, showing a decrease of litres 16,206 in quantity, and of Rs. 23,659 in value. The decrease was due specially to the United Kingdom, which supplied litres 15,772 less, with a shortage of Rs. 23,515 in value.

Stationery.

The value of the imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 127,057, against Rs. 99,780, in 1906, showing an increase of Rs. 27,277. Increases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 22,552), Continental India (Rs. 544), Austria (Rs. 952), Belgium (Rs. 260), France (Rs. 774), Germany (Rs. 2,540), and Switzerland. Slight decreases were from China and the United States.

Steel.

Unwrought.—Kilos 11,502, of the value of Rs. 5,240, were received in 1907, against kilos 10,644, of the value of Rs. 8,537, in 1906. There was therefore an increase of kilos 858 in weight, but a decrease of Rs. 3,297 in value. The United Kingdom shows an increase of kilos 3,657 in weight and of Rs. 1,128 in value. In 1906 France supplied kilos 2,799, of the value of Rs. 4,424, against nil in 1907.

Tea.

The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 49,959, of the value of Rs. 48,121, against kilos 46,132, of the value of Rs. 41,437, in 1906, showing an increase of kilos 3,827 in weight and of Rs. 6,684 in value, accountable as follows:—

From Ceylon: increase of kilos 3,973 in weight and of Rs. 4,568 in value.

From Continental India: increase of kilos 684 in weight and of Rs. 905 in value.

From China: decrease of kilos 320 in weight, but increase of Rs. 1,436 in value.

From Hong Kong: decrease of kilos 185 in weight and of Rs. 21 in value. Japan supplied kilos 300, of the value of Rs. 154, in 1906, against nil in 1907.

Tin.

Plates.—The imports in 1907 amounted to kilos 68,945 in weight and to Rs. 19,842 in value, against kilos 155,756, of the value of Rs. 35,861, in the previous year, showing a decrease of kilos 86,811 in weight and of Rs. 16,019 in value, due to the United Kingdom, which provided kilos 88,221 less,

with a shortage of Rs. 18,282 in value. From Continental India there was an increase of kilos 1,410 in weight and of Rs. 263 in value.

Slabs.—Kilos 5,719, of the value of Rs. 20,063, were imported in 1907, against kilos 8,875, of the value of Rs. 36,510 in 1906, showing a decrease of kilos 3,156 in weight and of Rs. 16,447 in value. The Straits Settlements and Singapore provided kilos 814 and kilos 3,141 less, with decreases of Rs. 3,726 and Rs. 14,914 respectively. From the United Kingdom there was an increase of kilos 563 in weight and of Rs. 3,101 in value. Continental India supplied kilos 722, of the value of Rs. 1,483, in 1907, against nil in the previous year, while in 1906 Germany supplied kilos 486, of the value of Rs. 2,391, against nil in 1907.

Tobacco.

Manufactured.—Compared with 1906, the imports for 1907 show an increase of kilos 26,654 in weight and of Rs. 20,154 in value, due to the United States, which provided kilos 23,876 more, with a surplus of Rs. 25,482 in value. From Reunion there was an increase of kilos 2,335 in weight, but a shortage of Rs. 6,711 in value. Slight increases are noticeable under the United Kingdom, France, Hong Kong, and China.

Cigars.—There was an increase of kilos 451 in weight, but a decrease of Rs. 5,106 in value, due to Continental India, which supplied kilos 298 more with, however, a shortage of Rs. 588 in value. From the United Kingdom there was an increase of kilos 248 in weight and of Rs. 2,110 in value; from the United States there was a decrease of kilos 777 in weight and of Rs. 11,380 in value; from France there was an increase of kilos 180 in weight and of Rs. 1,432 in value; from Switzerland there was an increase of kilos 448 in weight and of Rs. 2,749 in value. Small supplies were received from Germany (Rs. 41), Holland (Rs. 430), Ceylon (Rs. 85), Egypt (Rs. 253), and Turkey (Rs. 189), in 1907, against nil in the previous year.

Unmanufactured.—Kilos 6,042 less were received in 1907, with a shortage of Rs. 33 in the value of the importation due to difference in the market price in Continental India.

Umbrellas and Parasols.

26,108, of the value of Rs. 32,822, were received in 1907, against 23,588, of the value of Rs. 29,485, in 1906, showing an increase of 2,520 in number and of Rs. 3,337 in value. France supplied 4,491 more, with a surplus of Rs. 4,646 in value. The United Kingdom showed an increase of 119 in number and of Rs. 220 in value, while from Continental India there was a decrease of 2,190 in number and of Rs. 1,977 in value. From Germany 100, of the value of Rs. 447, were received in 1907, against nil in the previous year.

Silk.—There was an increase of 715 in number and of Rs. 1,211 in value, due to France, which supplied 834 more, with a surplus of Rs. 1,574 in value. From the United Kingdom there was a decrease of 110 in number and of Rs. 309 in value.

Woodenware.

The value of the imports in 1907 amounted to Rs. 18,686, against Rs. 8,737 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 9,949. Increases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 8,997), and France (Rs. 1,428), and Continental India. Slight decreases were noticeable under Reunion, Japan, Australia, Cochin China, Singapore, Germany, Switzerland, and the United States.

Woollen Manufactures.

Blankets.—Compared with 1906, the imports in 1907 show a decrease of 725 blankets, and of Rs. 3,124 in value. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 2,002), Continental India (Rs. 523), China (Rs. 589), and France (Rs. 480).

Mixed with cotton and silk.—The imports in 1907 amounted to 106,778 metres, of the value of Rs. 124,254, against metres 121,871, of the value of Rs. 141,808 in the previous year, showing a decrease of metres 15,093 in measure and of Rs. 17,554 in value. Decreases were from the United Kingdom (Rs. 12,478) and France (Rs. 8,220). From Germany there was an increase of Rs. 2,608 in value.

Shawls.—1,353 shawls, of the value of Rs. 1,420, were received in 1907, against 1,957 shawls, valued Rs. 2,221 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 624 shawls and of Rs. 801 in value. The United Kingdom supplied 669 less, with a shortage of Rs. 485 in value; Austria 153 less, with a shortage of Rs. 143, and France 88 less, with a shortage of Rs. 266 in value. Germany supplied 110 more, with, however, a shortage of Rs. 235 in value. Continental India supplied 176 more with a surplus of Rs. 294 in value.

MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines in Mauritius and, so far as is known, no minerals, though traces of gold have been reported from a place called "Fressanges," in the southern portion of the Island, but in nothing approaching a payable proportion. The Island is purely agricultural, and such industries as exist are connected with agriculture, such as the manufacture of vacoas bags for the packing of sugar, &c.

The fisheries are protected by law, and give employment to a considerable population of fishermen. Fish to a great extent forms the principal food of the poorer classes who cannot afford meat.

FORESTRY AND BOTANY.

General Remarks.

Mauritius originally contained large forests with valuable trees; the wood from these trees was very durable, and in many cases exceedingly beautiful. But the need for land for sugar cultivation and the need for firewood has caused a disastrous shrinkage of the old indigenous forests. The necessity for a policy of reafforestation is universally recognised, and from time to time expert advice has been sought on the subject, the last being that of Mr. Gleadow, of the Indian Forest Department, in 1904. But owing to want of funds it has not been found possible to carry out any comprehensive scheme of reafforestation. Nevertheless the Forest Department is doing good work in the conservation and re-planting of existing forest areas.

The mountain reserves and river reserves (private lands within which wood-cutting is forbidden) are carefully supervised, and a regular scheme has been started for the exploitation of the Government forests. From the æsthetic and historical point of view, it is to be hoped that every effort will be made to preserve the indigenous trees and to propagate them. Unfortunately they are so slow of growth that whilst the wood is often beautiful, as in the case of the ebony, the colophane and the tamalacoque, it pays better to plant conifers, casuarina trees, eucalyptus, or even acacia.

But the importance of forestation has been brought home to all in the Island, and though difficulties, mainly financial, stand in the way, planting is going on and the Forest Department sells large numbers of young plants to private landowners to be planted out, as will be seen from the more detailed statement given further on.

The foresters' enemies in Mauritius are monkeys, wood-eating beetles, dead trees which become the breeding ground of insect pests, and wood-cutting thieves. Cyclones should also be mentioned amongst the foresters' enemies.

Detailed Remarks.

The approximate area of lands of various descriptions under the care of the Forest Department was at the end of 1907:—

				Acres.
Crown lands	...	...	...	66,699
Mountain reserves	...	...	...	11,000
River reserves	...	...	...	6,000
Curatelle lands	...	...	...	830
				84,529

There are three botanical stations at different altitudes which, besides being centres of acclimatisation of large

numbers of plants, both tropical and sub-tropical, are also forest nurseries of importance.

1. *The Royal Botanical Gardens, Pamplemousses.*

These gardens, of a total extent of 91 acres, are visited by the inhabitants of the Island and by strangers. The free exchange system carried out with correspondents abroad results in useful acquisitions to the Colony in the way of economic and ornamental plants. 258,954 forest plants were sold for Rs. 2,548.61. To Government forests and public institutions 46,566 plants were sent free, and also 17,972 other plants, including economic and ornamental, and 250 pounds of seeds. Total 323,470 plants.

In local exchanges, 4,425 plants and 21 pounds of seeds were disposed of, and 6,723 plants were received, also 203 pounds of seeds.

For the foreign exchange 3,587 plants and 95 pounds of seeds were supplied, and 186 plants and 15 pounds of seeds were received.

The gardens do useful work also in experimental sugar cane cultivation and in experimental spice trees.

2. *The Nursery Gardens, Curepipe.*

These gardens, of an extent of 56½ acres, at an altitude of 1,800 feet, are chiefly managed in view of the forest nurseries they contain, and the conifers are most abundantly represented. 55,625 plants were sold to the public in 1907 for Rs. 680.43. To Government plantations and nurseries 144,700 plants were despatched, 4,760 to public establishments and river reserves. 3,930 plants, forest and ornamental, were given in exchange locally, and 91 plants and 5 pounds of seeds were received. Six apprentices received training during the year.

3. *The Réduit Gardens.*

These form part of the Réduit domain, the residence of the Governor. The forest plantations made here in previous years supply useful seeds for other nurseries (eucalyptus, camphor, sandal, &c.).

Horticultural Society.

The Horticultural Society of Mauritius, formed in November, 1904, receives encouragement both from the Government, in the way of an annual subsidy of Rs. 500, and from the public, who have at the several exhibitions given evidence of a desire to improve and utilise the economic and ornamental plants. Some beautiful fibres from the Ravenal or Travellers' palm were shown at the last exhibition.

Statement of revenue actually derived from all leases under the "planting conditions" of Ordinance No. 19 of 1895 (Pas Géométriques), for the year ended 30th June, 1907:—

Districts.	Rupees.
Port Louis	40
Pamplemousses	822
Rivière du Rempart	1,426
Flacq	2,360
Grand Port	1,620
Savanne	1,260
Black River	1,394
	8,922

LAND GRANTS.

Lands are granted by the Government by lease and by sale. Lands which are situated on the sea coast beyond the limits of Port Louis, known as Pas Géométriques, cannot be sold and can only be leased by public auction, except those forming part of villages which have been proclaimed as such. The sales are invariably made by public auction, except in cases where lands are desired for charitable, religious, or educational purposes, or for public utility. No sale of Crown land took place during the year ended 30th June, 1907.

SHIPPING.

The shipping for the five years 1903-1907 can be thus summarised:—

	1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.		1907.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1. Total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared (exclusive of coasting trade, <i>i.e.</i> , dependencies.) ..	442	767,977	425	801,154	372	731,470	433	805,324	399	731,853
2. British vessels ..	308	539,542	290	572,440	245	490,378	270	522,101	248	501,491
3. Foreign vessels ..	136	228,435	135	228,714	127	241,092	163	283,223	151	230,362
4. Sailing vessels ..	101	65,303	96	66,449	73	50,471	89	59,823	39	20,682
5. Steam vessels..	341	702,689	329	734,705	299	680,999	344	746,102	360	711,171

Coasting Trade (*i.e.*, Dependencies).

	1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.		1907.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1. Total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared ..	63	11,802	60	12,845	55	9,263	51	9,636	48	11,624
2. British vessels ..	63	11,802	60	12,845	55	9,263	51	9,636	42	9,326
3. Foreign vessels ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	2,298
4. Sailing vessels ..	62	11,607	56	12,065	55	9,263	51	9,636	40	7,576
5. Steam vessels ..	1	195	4	780	..	..	..	..	8	4,048

The nationality and description of vessels are shown at pages 35-6.

The number and tonnage of steam vessels which entered and cleared from, and to all countries *viâ* the Suez Canal and the value of goods (including Bullion and Specie) imported into, and exported by that Canal into, and from Mauritius are shown in the following table:—

Suez Canal.

Years.	Vessels Entered.		Vessels Cleared.		Value of Goods (including Bullion and Specie).	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	Imports.	Exports.
					Rs.	Rs.
1903	32	65,515	27	53,541	6,542,071	2,483,481
1904	32	71,428	20	42,717	3,149,920	234,010
1905	35	84,975	28	68,734	2,437,479	893,257
1906	37	89,109	27	61,980	2,554,574	1,358,512
1907	33	80,843	28	64,087	2,202,682	273,372

The first table is a return of all vessels entered and cleared, excluding the coasting trade vessels, *i.e.*, vessels trading with the dependencies which are exclusively dealt with in the second table.

In table 1, the total number of vessels entered and cleared during 1907 shows a decrease of 34 in number and of 74,071 in tonnage, as compared with the figures for 1906.

Compared with 1906 the following differences are noted:—

Sailing vessels—decrease of 50 in number and also of 39,140 in tonnage.

Steam vessels—increase of 16 in number but decrease of 34,931 in tonnage.

British vessels—decrease of 22 in number and also of 20,610 in tonnage.

Foreign vessels—decrease of 12 in number and also of 53,461 in tonnage.

Of the 399 vessels which entered and cleared during 1907, four British steamers and one Norwegian steamer, with an aggregate tonnage of 9,169, called at this Port for the purpose of coaling, showing an increase of 1,211 in tonnage, as compared with 1906.

Coasting Trade—Dependencies.

The number of vessels entered and cleared from and to the dependencies during 1907 is 48, with a tonnage of 11,624,

against, during 1906, 51 with a tonnage of 9,636, showing a falling off of 3 in number, but an increase of 1,988 in tonnage.

Eight steamers, with a tonnage of 4,048, entered and cleared from and to the dependencies during 1907, against nil during 1906.

Six foreign vessels, with a tonnage of 2,298, entered and cleared from and to the dependencies during 1907, against nil during 1903 to 1906 inclusively.

Suez Canal.

The value of goods imported through the Suez Canal in 1907 amounted to Rs. 2,202,681.75, against Rs. 2,554,573.66 in 1906, showing a decrease of Rs. 351,891.91.

Goods exported from Mauritius through the canal in 1907 amounted to Rs. 273,371.50, against Rs. 1,358,512.18 in 1906, showing a decrease of Rs. 1,085,140.68.

Vessels with Cargoes.

The tonnage of vessels entered with cargoes during 1907 amounted to 351,375, and the tonnage cleared to 279,067, as against 384,459 entered and 291,942 cleared during 1906.

The aggregate tonnage of the coasting trade amounted to 5,669 entered and 5,955 cleared in 1907, against 4,723 entered and 4,913 cleared in 1906.

Vessels touching at this Port.

One British steamer of 875 tons, three British sailing vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 2,627, one French sailing vessel of 705 tons and one Norwegian sailing vessel of 270 tons touched at this Port without entering the harbour during 1907.

The number and tonnage of ships visiting Mauritius is naturally dependent on the amount of trade, and the trade varies with the crop. A large sugar crop requires more vessels or larger vessels to carry it, a small crop fewer. The year 1907 was a year of a small crop. But the general tendency is towards larger ships—and large ships require quick discharge, as the cost of detention is greater than in the case of small ships. Unfortunately owing to Quarantine regulations and to insufficient lighterage, the demands of the shipping companies have not been completely satisfied, but harbour improvements have been carried out, and it is to be hoped that some further measure of satisfaction may be given. For it is now generally recognised that quick despatch and greater facilities are the best means of securing lower freights.

Statement of number and tonnage of British and Foreign sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared for 1907 and 1906:—

—	1907.		1906.		Difference.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	+ Increase. — Decrease.	
					No.	Tonnage.
<i>Entered.</i>						
Sailing vessels	39	13,214	71	34,967	— 32	— 21,753
Steamers ...	186	362,300	173	375,073	+ 13	— 12,773
Total ...	225	375,514	244	410,040	— 19	— 34,526
<i>Cleared.</i>						
Sailing vessels	40	15,044	69	34,491	— 29	— 19,447
Steamers ...	182	352,919	171	371,029	+ 11	— 18,110
Total ...	222	367,963	240	405,520	— 18	— 37,557

Statement showing the classification of shipping by nationalities :—

Entered.

—	1907.		1906.		Difference.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	+ Increase. — Decrease.	
					No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamers	112	247,559	113	246,176	— 1	+ 1,383
Sailing ...	35	12,321	48	20,037	— 13	— 7,716
French—						
Steamers	40	96,021	52	119,510	— 12	— 23,489
Sailing ...	2	131	3	1,263	— 1	— 1,132
German—						
Steamers	4	5,051	5	5,671	— 1	— 620
Norwegian—						
Steamers	30	13,669	2	1,423	+ 28	+ 12,246
Sailing ...	2	762	13	7,579	— 11	— 6,817
Dutch—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	2,293	— 1	— 2,293
Danish—						
Sailing ...	—	—	2	1,758	— 2	— 1,758
Italian—						
Sailing ...	—	—	2	2,778	— 2	— 2,778
American—						
Sailing ...	—	—	1	365	— 1	— 365
Swedish—						
Sailing ...	—	—	2	1,187	— 2	— 1,187

Cleared.

	1907.		1906.		Difference.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	+ Increase. — Decrease.	
					No.	Tonnage.
British—						
Steamers	108	238,178	112	242,515	— 4	— 4,337
Sailing ...	35	12,759	48	21,009	—13	— 8,250
French—						
Steamers	40	96,021	52	119,510	—12	— 23,489
Sailing ...	1	75	3	1,263	— 2	— 1,188
German—						
Steamers	4	5,051	5	5,671	— 1	— 620
Norwegian—						
Steamers	30	13,669	1	1,040	+29	+ 12,629
Sailing ...	4	2,210	11	6,131	— 7	— 3,921
Dutch—						
Steamer...	—	—	1	2,293	— 1	— 2,293
Danish—						
Sailing ...	—	—	2	1,758	— 2	— 1,758
Italian—						
Sailing ...	—	—	2	2,778	— 2	— 2,778
American—						
Sailing ...	—	—	1	365	— 1	— 365
Swedish—						
Sailing ...	—	—	2	1,187	— 2	— 1,187

III.—LEGISLATION.

During the session of 1907 twenty-two Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor. The following enactments call for special mention:—

1. Ordinance No. 1 amends the Letters Patent of the 16th September, 1885, as to the qualification of elected members.

2. Ordinance No. 8 restricts the introduction into the Colony of destitute persons likely to become chargeable to the Colony, and of vicious and criminal persons.

3. By Ordinance No. 9 the law relating to vagrancy is amended, and an improvement is effected on that portion of the Labour Law which deals with certain immigrants as vagrants.

4. Ordinance No. 11 amends articles 227, 307, and 333 of the Penal Code dealing respectively with blackmail and extortion, and with embezzlement, and makes further provision for the repression of bribery.

5. By Ordinance No. 16 power is given to the local Boards to acquire land for the improvement of roads in the townships and rural districts.

6. Ordinance No. 19 empowers the Governor to grant licences for the establishment of telephones and generally regulates the use of telephones in the Colony.

7. Ordinance No. 23 amends articles 205 and 767 of the Civil Code, dealing respectively with alimony and with the rights of the surviving spouse in the succession of the deceased spouse in case of intestacy.

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

In Mauritius primary education is free. There are two classes of schools: Government schools and grant-in-aid schools. The latter are denominational, but receive pupils of all religions.

The religious compromise on which primary education is based in Mauritius will be found in two sub-sections of the Education Ordinance. Section III., article 15, sub-section 3 runs as follows:—

“(3) Religious teaching shall not form part of the instruction to be given at any Government school; but any minister of a christian religion shall be authorised to give religious instruction to the children of the religious denomination to which the minister belongs at such times and places as may be agreed upon between him and the Director” of Public Instruction.

In regard to the grant-in-aid (denominational) schools the following is the law:—

Article 18, sub-section IV.: “That no child receive any religious instruction objected to by its parent or guardian or be present while such instruction so objected to is given to other children.”

As a result of the system in force the schools were attended as follows:—

The Government schools contained:

5,395 Roman Catholics,
259 Anglicans,
78 Other Christian denominations.
937 Mahommedans, and
1,970 Hindoos.

The Roman Catholic schools contained:

6,501 Roman Catholics,
31 Anglicans,
25 Other Christian denominations,
411 Mahommedans, and
1,082 Hindoos.

The Church of England schools contained:

457 Roman Catholics,
229 Anglicans,
2 Other Christian denominations,
322 Mahommedans, and
1,085 Hindoos.

The Presbyterian schools contained:

30 Roman Catholics,
3 Anglicans,
65 Other Christian denominations,
19 Mahommedans, and
9 Hindoos.

The Mahommedan school contained:

16 Roman Catholics,
7 Anglicans,
77 Mahommedans, and
64 Hindoos.

There were 67 Government schools, 67 Roman Catholic, 20 Church of England, 2 Presbyterian, 1 Mahommedan school, with an annual average of 19,212 pupils on the roll, and an average attendance of 12,489. The general tendency is towards increased attendance at the grant-in-aid schools.

Lectures on hygiene were given to 225 teachers, who will, when qualified, teach hygiene to the school children.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Secondary Education is provided at the Royal College and its two Schools. During 1907 there were 268 paying pupils at the Royal College and 96 free pupils. Free railway travelling is granted to the boys attending the Royal College at Curepipe from Port Louis.

Two English scholarships of the value of a thousand pounds each, with a handsome allowance for passage to England and back, are granted annually to enable boys to qualify for some profession or to attend a University.

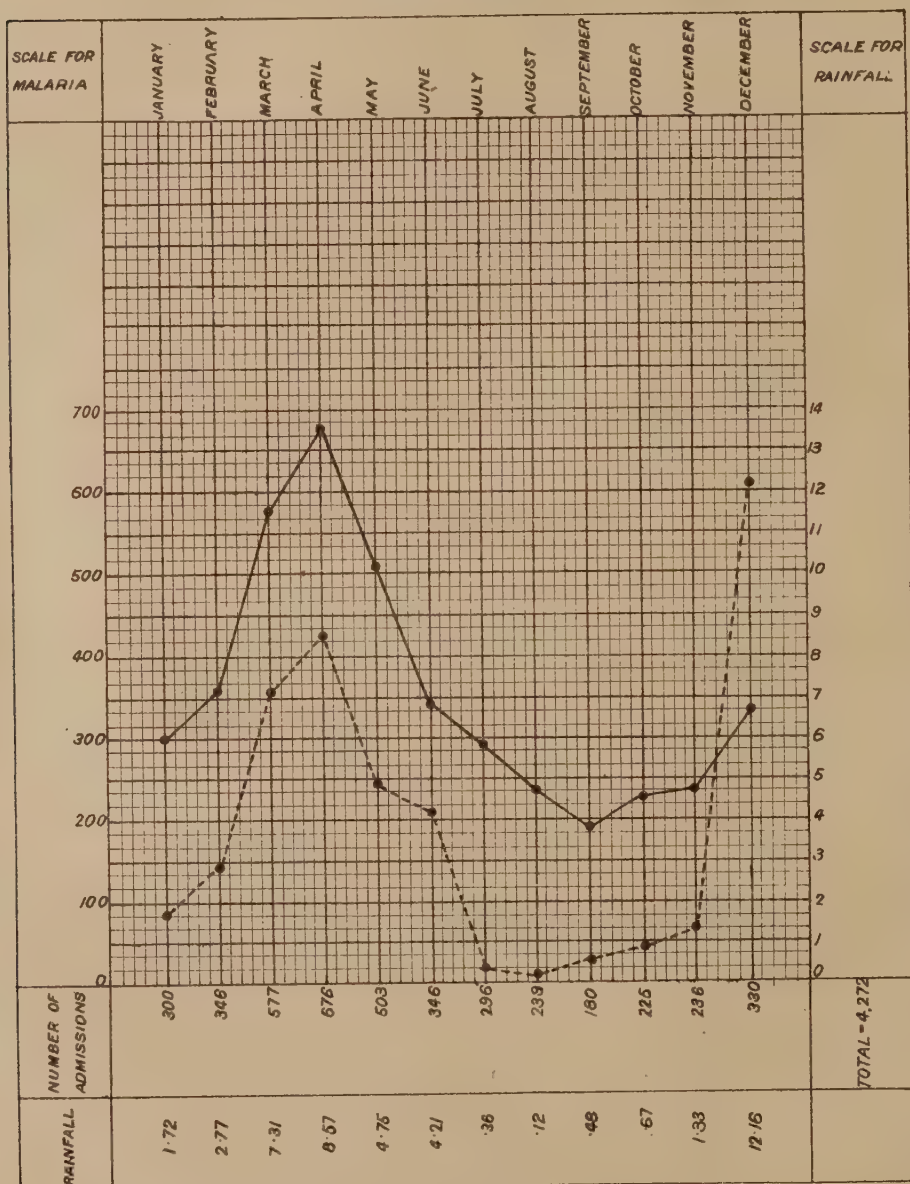
Money prizes, called scholarships, are also given to boys who may gain them in the schools, and it may fairly be said that in few countries does the State do so much for the individual boy or so much to relieve parents of their pecuniary responsibilities in respect of their children. During the year education cost Rs. 578,049, to which the parents contributed Rs. 45,792.

The Director of Public Instruction is of opinion that the expenditure could be reduced or better results could be obtained with the same expenditure if it were not for the inefficient or unnecessary schools which still continue to exist, and that it is extremely difficult to obtain the closing of an aided school.

This experience is not peculiar to Mauritius: it must exist everywhere, and the manager of a denominational school may

CHART I

CHART SHOWING MONTHLY ADMISSIONS FOR MALARIA AND MONTHLY RAINFALL DURING 1907.



MALARIA = —●—

RAINFALL = - - -●- - -

well be excused if he hesitates to turn adrift an old school-master whose methods and teaching may be antiquated, but who has won the affection of the children.

Financial necessity is, however, likely to act as a persuasive force in the direction of reform, and it is likely that economical pressure will lead to the gradual suppression of the inefficient. The cause of education will not, however, suffer.

V.—MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The expenditure on the Medical Department during the financial year ended 30th June, 1907, amounted to Rs. 920,740 (including quarantine and plague services). This is a large sum and bears a large proportion to the general revenue of the Colony, but it is difficult to see how it could be materially reduced unless the war against disease is to be relaxed. The diseases prevalent in Mauritius, though not directly caused by poverty, may be considered to be consequent on poverty, that is to say, on over-crowding, insufficient or bad food, want of clothing, and bad sanitation. It is impossible to legislate against poverty or to control economic conditions, and the Government is reduced to alleviating or curing diseases which under existing economic conditions it is powerless to prevent. The question of public health has never been approached in a niggardly spirit, and whilst the wisdom of some of the measures taken is disputed by different schools of thought in the medical profession, there is no sound of any reproach on the ground of niggardliness.

The hospitals, asylums, and dispensaries are as well equipped as the resources of a poor Colony allow, and the medical department has always had the first claim on the Treasury. It is disappointing, therefore, to find that, except under the heading of plague, there is no material improvement, but neither medical zeal nor medical talent can fight against poverty or the consequences of poverty.

But whilst putting poverty in the first rank as the chief predisposing factor in disease, the influence of climate cannot be ignored. Referring to the annexed chart for malaria, it will be seen that the number of cases rose steadily from February to April, and then rapidly diminished to reach a minimum in September. This curve runs practically parallel with that for the rainfall, the influence of which has been so often demonstrated that it is not necessary to again lay stress on the correlation which exists. But contrary to what should have been expected, no further increase has followed the high rainfall of April. This can apparently be explained partly by the fall in temperature which was coincidentally established, and the higher wind velocity which ruled during April and May.

Again, the influence of climatic conditions on the production of dysentery is clearly demonstrated by the second chart, to which further weight is added by the consideration of the conditions which have been enumerated above. Indeed, with the advent of rain in the early months of the year during which the fields are manured, a considerable amount of organic matter is washed to the rivers which, up to the present, constitute the only water supply of the greater number of the inhabitants. But the condition is made still worse when there happens to be a very high rainfall, which sweeps in addition the more or less decomposing organic matter which have accumulated along the banks of the rivers.

These factors, usually at work in the early months of the year, cease to ply their influence once the rivers and streams have been washed, so to speak; but in 1907, owing to the severe drought which set in, the water in the rivers ran so low that in some places it practically remained stagnant and allowed of the fermentation and decomposition of the leaves and fruits which fell into the beds of the rivers from the trees in the reserves. Hence dysentery and the diarrhoeic diseases continued to run high during the later months of the year against what usually holds, the curve representing practically a plateau.

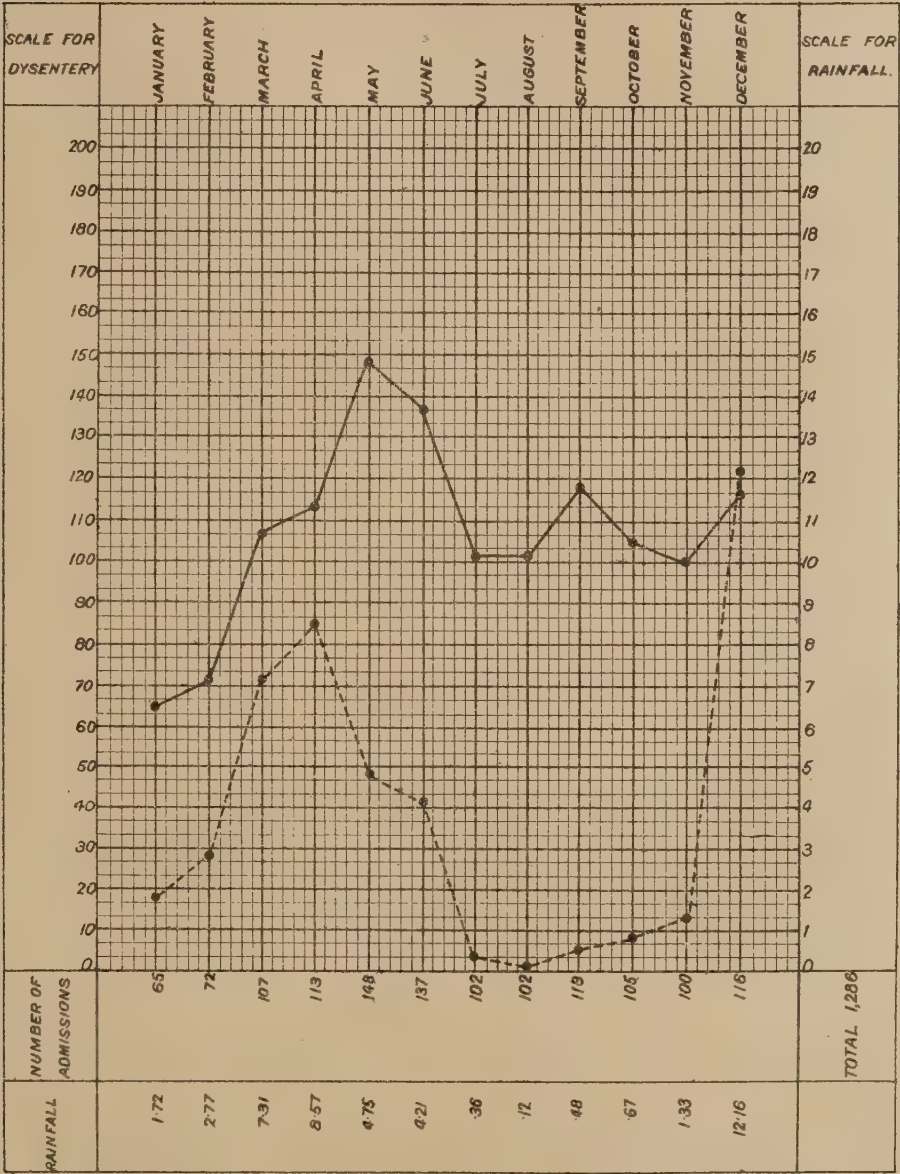
The following is a description of the work done by the hospitals, asylums, and dispensaries during the year 1907.

The number of hospitals and asylums has remained the same as in 1906, *i.e.*, fourteen, including those attached to the jails of the Colony.

The statistical table in the next paragraph shows the admissions and deaths, as well as the hospital population at the end of the year in each of these Institutions.

Institutions.	Remaining on 1st January, 1907.	Admis- sions.	Deaths.	Total Cases Treated.	Remaining on 31st December, 1907.
Civil Hospital ...	125	6,230	423	6,355	180
Port Louis Prisons...	12	997	2	1,009	22
Long Mountain ...	10	840	74	850	22
Poudre d'Or... ..	28	1,417	49	1,445	32
Flacq	25	2,227	114	2,252	40
Flacq Prisons ...	9	143	4	152	1
Mahébourg	39	3,030	140	3,069	39
Souillac	19	1,291	71	1,310	21
Souillac Prisons ...	6	254	1	260	4
Barkly Asylum ...	84	3,856	275	3,940	176
Lunatic Asylum ...	24	466	23	490	14
Beau Bassin Prisons	18	1,375	34	1,393	29
Reformatory Hospital	—	116	1	116	4
Moka	5	1,113	58	1,118	24
Total ...	404	23,355	1,269	23,759	608

CHART II
 CHART SHOWING MONTHLY ADMISSIONS FOR DYSENTERY AND MONTHLY RAINFALL.
DURING 1907.



DYSENTERY - ●———
 RAINFALL - ●-----

The number of admissions—23,355—shows an increase of 2,984 over the previous year's figures; but the case-mortality, 5·34 per cent., is lower than that of 1906 by ·51.

55,635 cases were treated in the dispensaries of the Colony. This figure, on comparison with that of the previous year, shows a decrease of 719.

The number of inmates under confinement in the lunatic asylum on 31st December, 1907, amounted to 435, including 5 patients admitted on interim order, who were then under observation. The asylum population gave a daily average of 258·35 males and 172·49 females, against 248·10 and 171·22 respectively in 1906.

The proportion of certified lunatics in the Colony has been 1 in every 629 of the population during the year under review.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE COLONY.

The sanitary condition of the Colony has been more satisfactory in 1907 than in the previous year as is evidenced by the diminished death-rate, the increased birth-rate, reduced number of attendances at the Dispensaries, and lower case-mortality in the hospitals.

It should here be remarked that the increase already referred to in the number of admissions in hospital is due not to a higher morbidity, but to other factors, the principal being the straitened circumstances of many consequent on the financial crisis which had made itself felt already towards the end of 1907.

Prevalence of Sickness.

Malarial Fever accounts for 4,272 admissions, against 3,674 in 1906.

Dysentery is answerable for 1,286 admissions, which figure is considerably higher than that of the previous year, when only 794 patients were admitted for that complaint. The higher incidence of dysentery is attributable principally to the prolonged drought which was experienced notably from July to November, and the consequent stagnation and pollution of the streams and rivers from which a great proportion of the population derive their water supply.

Influenza gave 1,264 admissions, against 1,768 in 1906, during which the disease prevailed epidemically.

Tuberculosis.—1,114 admissions were registered in the hospitals for that complaint, showing an increase of 142 over the number recorded in the previous year.

Pertussis.—Only one case of that complaint came under notice in the hospitals during the year under review, the epidemic referred to in 1906 having come to an end in that year.

Enteric Fever.—The number of cases notified in accordance with the Contagious Diseases Ordinance was 145, showing an increase of 64 over that of 1906. This increase is more apparent than real, being explained by the greater facility now afforded for the differentiation of the existing fevers by the creation of the bacteriological laboratory.

Diphtheria is answerable for 60 notifications, against 33 in the previous year. Here again the increase in the incidence of the disease is probably only apparent, and brings out the influence of the bacteriological laboratory in determining the final diagnosis in doubtful cases.

Measles.—An epidemic of that disease broke out in August. In spite of early precautionary measures, the infection spread rapidly, 347 cases having been notified between August and December.

Beri-beri, which is not endemic in the Island, broke out simultaneously in three out of the four prisons of the Colony in February. The source of the infection was traced to the use of a decorticated unstoved white rice from the East, which had been supplied to the prisons for some time. The epidemic at once subsided after a change of diet—from the incriminated rice to bread at first and to ordinary Indian rice later on—had been prescribed and carried into effect. Out of a total of 65 cases treated, 38 occurred in the prisons.

An outbreak of the disease, apparently traceable to the same source, was also reported from Six Islands during the year.

Plague.—The epidemic of the year has been the lowest on record since the appearance of the disease in 1899, the number of cases detected being 224, of which 178 proved fatal, giving a death-rate of 79·5 per cent.

The yearly incidence of the disease since 1899 is shown in the following tabular statement:—

Plague.

Year.				Cases.	Deaths.	Death-rate.
						Per cent.
1899	...	...	...	1,416	1,117	78·9
1900	...	...	...	796	593	74·5
1901	...	...	...	1,093	805	73·6
1902	...	...	...	506	386	76·3
1903	...	...	...	1,395	1,035	74·2
1904	...	...	...	568	449	79·0
1905	...	...	...	308	251	81·5
1906	...	...	...	434	344	79·3
1907	...	...	...	224	178	79·5

It will probably be of interest to compare the alternations of malaria with those of plague. It will be noticed that both favour alternate years.

Malaria.

Years.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
No. of cases	4,152	2,848	4,182	3,360	4,788	3,039	5,123	3,674	4,272

The campaign against rats was carried on with increased vigour during the year under report, 125,558 of these vermin having been destroyed by the rat-catchers employed by the Department. This figure compares very favourably with that for 1906, which was only 105,568.

Surra.—The epizootic continued throughout the year, though with less virulence. Its existence was detected, however, in the southern part of Black River, which had at first escaped contamination.

A bacteriological laboratory was established in temporary buildings at Moka pending the construction of a more permanent home at Réduit.

Much good research work has been done, but it is too early yet to speak of definite results. Nevertheless the work in regard to surra is most hopeful.

Good work has been done also by assisting the medical profession in cases of doubtful diagnosis.

POOR LAW RELIEF.

In Mauritius there is a Poor Law Commissioner who presides over the Poor Law Department, but it is not easy to define precisely where poor relief begins or ends. The greater part, or at all events a great part, of the services rendered by the Medical Department are gratuitous, or when a charge is made it is insignificant and in no way proportionate to the expense incurred. To estimate properly the assistance given to the poor in Mauritius it would be necessary to add together the money spent on gratuitous education, the poor law relief proper given under the poor law, and the medical services rendered gratuitously by the Medical Department. Indeed these figures would not give a measure of the work of the Mauritius Government as a charitable institution, for it would be necessary to add the cost of the free railway tickets given to poor scholars and apprentices, and other details.

Poverty is undoubtedly on the increase in Mauritius, and there is a general tendency towards pauperism. The paternal system of Government seems to have undermined or to be undermining the spirit of independence and of self-help. There is an almost universal disposition to look to the Government for help and succour at all times. The appeals for charity are constant, and they are almost all of the same tenour.

The writers describe themselves as *mère* or *père de famille sans emploi et dans la plus grande misère*. These statements are only too often true, but the saddest thought is that the most deserving poor are as a rule concealed amongst those who never write and never beg, people of whom the Government officials never hear, and whose misery is known only to discreet neighbours or possibly to a benevolent and equally discreet priest.

It must not be supposed, therefore, that the statistics of poor relief give any measure of the poverty in Mauritius, but they serve as an indication of what the Government does to deal with the class of poverty that appeals to the law and comes within the law.

The total number of paupers of every description maintained and relieved by the Poor Law Department throughout the Colony during 1907 was 70,066, as follows:—

(a) *In-door Relief.*

In country district hospitals	...	...	13,430
In Civil Hospital, Port Louis	...	...	4,790
In Canal Street Convent Hospital	...	...	225
In Barkly Asylum	...	...	930
Lepers at St. Lazare	...	...	210
Lunatic Asylum	...	...	515
Orphans in Convents	...	...	47
Inmates of Branch Infirmaries	...	...	1,013

(b) *Out-door Relief.*

Alimentary and pecuniary	...	...	2,167
Sick in Dispensaries	...	...	46,739
			70,066

It is not possible to obtain any estimate of the charitable work done by the various charitable institutions, both Catholic and Protestant; but the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the various Convents, the Church Missionary Society, and the numberless semi-private charitable societies of ladies which have been formed in Mauritius, have all taken their part in the cause of charity. Without such volunteer aid the secret cases of poverty, which never come within the knowledge of the official organisation, would escape notice altogether.

There are no rich in Mauritius, and those who give to charity do so at the price of genuine deprivation. The private charity of the Mauritian people is therefore one of the strongest evidences of the genuine kindness of heart which is so often concealed from those who do not look below the surface.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE, PRISONS, &C.

The police force of Mauritius on the 31st December, 1907, was 722, of 18 nationalities—a somewhat mixed force; but the population of Mauritius is itself somewhat heterogeneous, and the police force naturally reflects the character of the population. The numbers given must not, however, be taken as representing the effective strength, for large deductions must be made for men on leave of absence, sick in hospital, &c.

The work done by the force in 1907 is represented by the following table:—

Nature of Offences.	No. of cases.	No. of persons charged.
(a) Serious offences reported to, or detected by, the Police, in which persons were charged.	3,251	4,130
(b) Serious offences reported to the Police, which, in certain cases, formed the subject of enquiries, but in which no persons were charged	10,948	624 ^c
(c) Minor offences reported to, or detected by, the Police in which persons were charged.	5,254	7,492
(d) Minor offences reported to the Police in which no persons were charged.	3,411	—
(e) Offences against the Labour Law	1,262	1,262
(f) Vagrancy	1,355	1,355
Total	25,481	14,863

^c Arrested on suspicion.

Of the 14,359 cases under (b) and (d) of the foregoing summary, 9,986 cases were not of a nature to warrant prosecution by the Crown, and their classification is as follows:—

Assaults	1,483
Threats	2,933
Disturbance	85
Abusive language	1,135
Stone throwing	13
Petty wounds and blows	3,383
Fictitious larcenies	500
Offences against property	376
Offences against the person	78
	9,986

The balance, *i.e.*, 4,373 cases, represent cases which remained undetected at the close of the year.

With the increase of poverty in the Island, it is natural to expect an increase in prædial larceny, by which is meant robbing provision grounds and homesteads (thefts of fowls, goats, or other animals excepted); and the following table shows the increase in this the poor man's form of crime:—

Year.	No. of cases declared or reported to police.	No. of persons charged.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of persons otherwise disposed of.	Pending.	Amount of property stolen.	Amount of property recovered.	Percentage of convictions on number charged.	Percentage of property recovered on property lost.
1903.. ..	314	244	213	30	1	166	65	Per cent. 87'29	Per cent. 39'33
1904.. ..	271	168	132	22	4	275	125	83'54	45'59
1905.. ..	345	230	194	26	10	303	180	84'34	42'91
1906.. ..	380	286	253	27	6	449	186	88'46	43'60
1907.. ..	642	613	448	49	16	694	288	67'32	44'28

PRISONS.

There are four prisons in Mauritius:—

The Central Prison at Beau Bassin,
The Savanne Prison,
The Flacq Prison, and
The Port Louis Prison.

During the year 1907 the number of prisoners admitted after conviction were:—

Males	...	...	...	6,453
Females	...	...	...	296
Total	...	...	...	6,749

These figures show an increase of 914 in the number of males and 51 in the number of females, or a total increase of 965, as compared with 1906. Unfortunately the prison population is still on the increase: the most probable explanation is the great increase of poverty amongst the population, and there is little hope that any improvement is likely to take place in this respect. The people in Mauritius are poor, and are becoming poorer.

In 1880 the number of prisoners' rations issued was 7,099: in 1907 it was 27,625. But in 1880 the Island was comparatively prosperous; now there are many who are living on the margin of existence.

The religions of prisoners are shown by the following statement:—

Year.	Christians.	Mahomme- dans.	Hindus.	Buddhists.	Others.
1906 ...	1,364	629	3,764	14	13
1907 ...	1,755	612	4,367	14	1

The decreases, as will be seen, are in Mahommedans and "Others"; but Christians and Hindus show an increase. There is a decrease under the heading "Read and write," and an increase under "illiterate."

The longest time spent by any prisoner waiting trial was 218 days.

There were 44 deaths, as against 39 in 1906. The most prevalent disease was malarial fever, but dysentery was also very prevalent. There were 3 deaths from beri-beri, but the epidemic was quickly checked by an alteration in the prison diet.

In 1906 the daily average of patients in the prison hospitals was 50.48: in 1907 it rose to 68.57.

The work done for the Government, such as carpentering, repairs to buildings, breaking stones for macadam, and work on the public roads, was valued at Rs. 139,000.

The average cost of a prisoner's rations for the year was Rs. 52.58, but the hospital charges were more than double those of the previous year. The total cost of all prisons was Rs. 181,327 after taking credit for cash receipts, value of goods supplied, and work done for the Government. The net cost per prisoner was Rs. 117.73.

REFORMATORY.

The number of admissions to the Reformatory (including untried boys) during 1907 was 364, showing an increase of 115 on the previous year. Of the 270 boys convicted, 233 were sentenced for six months or less.

The boys were taught carpentering, tinsmith's work, basket-making, and gardening, and were frequently visited by clergy of the various denominations. But the system of short sentences, and the impossibility of carrying out a proper system of classification prevents any substantial improvement in the boys. During 1907, 70 ex-reformatory boys were committed to prisons for post-reformatory offences. On the whole, however, the Reformatory is giving better results. The discipline is improving, and the petty larcenies from the gardens were less than half.

The cost of the Reformatory was Rs. 17,474.

It would be easy to suggest improvements in an admittedly imperfect system, but in this, as in all other matters in Mauritius improvements cost money, and it is impossible to increase expenditure; all that can be said is that the best that can be done is done with the funds available.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the Magistrates in 1907 was 22,506, or 817 more than in the previous year.

The total number of convictions in the inferior Courts during the year was 18,490, or 1,072 more than in 1906; and in the Supreme Court 84, or 22 less than in 1906.

The acquittals were as follows: in the inferior Courts 1,562, as against 1,384 in 1906; and in the Supreme Court 56, as against 120 in 1906.

The total number of cases which fell through during the year for want of prosecution, amounted to 4,231, as against 2,937 in 1906.

One prisoner was found insane in 1907, as against two in the previous year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The population on the 1st January, 1907, was	375,400
Number of births registered in 1907	12,901
Number of unregistered owing to death intervening before registration was made	1,285
Total births	14,186
Number of deaths registered in 1907	13,037
Showing an increase of	1,149
Arrivals in the Island	4,264
Departures from the Island	4,178
Difference in favour of arrivals	86
Total civil population	376,635
Military stationed in the Island ...	1,009
Total population of the Island ...	377,644
Estimated population of dependencies and out-lying Islands	5,764
Estimated total population of the Colony	383,408

The crews of non-Colonial shipping in the harbour have not been included in the above estimate.

The Indian population included in the above numbered 263,983, composed of 143,930 males and 120,053 females, showing an increase of 830 males and 4,067 females on the census of 1901.

The general population (exclusive of Indians) numbered 112,652, of which 57,055 were males and 55,597 females, thus showing an increase of 603 males and 112 females.

It will be noticed that while both populations show an increase when compared with the census figures, the Indian population shows an increase and the general population a decrease when compared with the figures for last year. But the variation of population for years past has been in the direction of an increase in the Indian population and a decrease in the creole population.

The public health of the Colony during 1907 has been much better than that of 1906.

The death-rate shows a sensible decrease, having fallen from 40.0 in 1906 to 34.7 in 1907.

The birth-rate has increased from 33.5 per 1,000 to 37.7.

An unsatisfactory feature is to be found in the high infantile mortality for the year, and a very high proportion of still-births, 8.5 per cent., must at the same time be recorded.

According to the census of 1st April, 1901, the following statement shows the different classes of occupations of the population at that time:—

Employment.	General Population.		Indian Population.		Total.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Class I.—Professional	3,225	624	1,85	48	4,310	672	4,982
Class II.—Domestic	2,874	3,087	6,839	1,239	9,713	4,326	14,039
Class III.—Commercial	5,681	110	7,064	842	12,775	952	13,727
Class IV.—Agricultural	3,605	157	68,744	5,385	72,349	5,542	77,891
Class V.—Industrial	18,211	3,269	2,580	260	20,791	3,529	24,320
Class VI.—Indefinite and Non-productive.	22,856	48,238	56,758	108,212	79,614	156,450	236,064
Total	56,452	55,485	143,100	115,968	199,552	171,471	371,023

Marriages.

There were 967 marriages celebrated during the year. Of these marriages, 503 belonged to the general population and 464 to the Indian population.

The following return shows the mortality for the last five years:—

Year.	Mortality.	Rate per 1,000.
1903	15,034	39.9
1904	12,064	32.2
1905	15,379	40.6
1906	15,118	40.0
1907	13,037	34.7

CLIMATE.

General.

Mauritius lies close to the edge of the southern tropic, and has the climate which is to be expected in such a latitude. It is also in the direct line of the track of the cyclones of the Southern Indian Ocean. But the climate at the lower levels, though unfavourable to man, is very favourable to vegetation; even a hurricane may prove to be a blessing in disguise, and the heat and rain of the summer months, though they fill the hospitals, push the growth of the sugar cane and thus help also to fill the pockets of the sugar planters. The higher levels, though damp owing to the condensation of the trade wind, are not unhealthy; and it is poverty rather than climate which should bear the responsibility of the sickness and mortality amongst the population in the higher levels.

SPECIAL FEATURES IN 1907.

Barometric Pressure.

The barometric pressure decreased, relatively to the normal, from January to July; increased until August, and then decreased generally. The decrease from January to July was unusually large and steady.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January-March.	April-June.	July-September.	October-December.
Ins. + 0·044	Ins. — 0·040	Ins. — 0·014	Ins. — 0·026

Air Temperature.

Relatively to the normal, the temperature increased from January to April, decreased generally till August, and increased rapidly until November.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January-March.	April-June.	July-September.	October-December.
— 0·8°	— 0·3°	— 0·9°	+ 0·9°

Vapour Tension.

The departures from average vapour tension followed very closely those of air temperature and, inverted, showed the usual agreement with those of atmospheric pressure.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January-March.	April-June.	July-September.	October-December.
Ins. — .037	Ins. — .005	Ins. — .045	Ins. + .040

Relative Humidity.

The relative humidity departures followed the temperature and vapour tension departures, particularly in the latter part of the year.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January-March.	April-June.	July-September.	October-December.
Per cent. — 1.6	Per cent. 0.0	Per cent. — 4.2	Per cent. + 2.2

Rainfall.

The inverted rainfall departures followed generally the departures of barometric pressure. This is probably because the latter were more pronounced than usual.

The most striking feature in the four last mentioned elements was the large regular increase from August to the end of the year.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January-March.	April-June.	July-September.	October-December.
Per cent. — 53	Per cent. + 74	Per cent. — 84	Per cent. + 70

Wind Velocity.

The wind velocity was again below normal throughout the year: the variations (inverted) followed approximately the pressure variations.

The quarterly departures from average were as follows:—

January–March.	April–June.	July–September.	October–December.
m.p.h. — 3 12	m.p.h. — 1·60	m.p.h. — 2·01	m.p.h. — 2·03

The wind velocity, as recorded by the Robinson anemometer, has been above normal in only 6 of the 70 months beginning March, 1902. The total defect of wind during this period was over 86,000 miles. As mentioned last year, from comparisons with a smaller instrument which had been previously tested at the Kew Observatory, it appeared that the anemometer gives results practically identical with the Kew Standard. The comparisons are being continued, and the results for several months may give some indication of the cause of the above mentioned defect, which is almost certainly not climatic.

Means and Extremes of Meteorological Elements.

The means and extremes of the various meteorological elements for the year 1907 are given below:—

Element.	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.
Atmospheric Pressure	Ins. 30·063	Ins. 30·347	Ins. 29·403
Air Temperature	73·1°	90·3°	49·9°
Relative Humidity	Per cent. 74·0	Per cent. 98·0	Per cent. 40·0
Wind Velocity	m.p.h. 8·9	m.p.h. 35·6	—
Wind Direction	S. 73° E.	—	—
Rainfall	Ins. 44·19	Ins. 3·37 (in 24 hours)	—

Results of Magnetic Observations.

The magnetographs were at work throughout the year, and absolute values of the magnetic elements determined, as a rule, four times a month. The following are the mean results for 1907:—

Declination (west)	... ..	9°13'64
Dip (south)	... ..	53°49'00
Horizontal force (C.G.S. units)	... ..	0·23461
Vertical force (C.G.S. units)	... ..	0·32075
Total force (C.G.S. units)	... ..	0·39739

The largest magnetic disturbances occurred on January 11-12; February 9-10; March 10-11, 21-22; May 29; June 19-20; September 10-11; October 13-15, 22-23; November 21-22.

MISCELLANEOUS WORK IN 1907.

Actinometric observations were taken on 44 days with both high and low sun, and on 47 other days single sets of observations only were made.

Fifty-six earthquakes were recorded by the Milne seismograph during the year. The hourly measures of the seismograms have been continued throughout the year.

Rainfall returns were collected from 69 stations in different parts of the Island. The mean rainfall for the whole Island during the year was 67·38 inches, as compared with an average of 80·53 inches.

Observations made on board vessels trading with Mauritius were tabulated, and detailed accounts of gales and hurricanes recorded. From observations thus obtained daily synoptic charts were prepared for the hurricane months, and the tracks of four cyclones laid down. Four other cyclones occurred in the South Indian Ocean whose tracks have not yet been determined owing to want of observations.

From May to December cablegrams giving a resumé of the weather at Mauritius for the preceding week were, as usual, despatched to the Director-General of Indian Observatories in connection with the monsoon predictions, and monthly cablegrams to the Director of the Geological Survey Department, Cairo.

Photographs of the sun were taken daily when the weather permitted. Spots were observed on 301 days and faculæ on 302 days.

The installation of an electric time ball at Port Louis, which was commenced in July, 1907, was completed early in the year. During the first two months of working several failures occurred, but since then it has worked satisfactorily.

On the 1st January, 1907, the standard time of the 60th meridian East of Greenwich was introduced in Mauritius and all its Dependencies, except the Chagos Archipelago, where the standard time of the 75th meridian has been adopted.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

POSTAL.

The contract with the British India Steam Navigation Company was renewed in 1907 for another year, for a four-weekly service between Colombo and Mauritius. Besides the British India steamers, the mails to and from Europe are conveyed by

other British and French steamers. The Messageries Maritimes Company performed their bi-monthly voyages from Marseilles to Mauritius and *vice versa*, calling at Aden, Zanzibar, Seychelles, Madagascar and Reunion. The mails for and from African ports were conveyed by the Union Castle steamers.

Statement of letters, post cards, newspapers, and postal parcels dealt with during the year 1907:—

Statement of letters, post cards, newspapers, and parcels.	Internal.	Mail Packets.				Other Vessels.				Total.
		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		United Kingdom.		Other Places.		
		From.	To.	From.	To.	From.	To.	From.	To.	
Insured Letters	—	—	—	173	38	—	—	—	—	211
Express Delivery	20,155	—	12	—	7	—	—	—	—	20,174
Post Cards	79,568	3,500	15,090	4,506	24,968	—	—	1,629	4,912	134,173
Paid Letters	649,305	178,227	70,768	201,825	150,321	—	20,321	32,714	128,604	1,432,085
Unpaid Letters	15,317	2,000	200	7,000	3,500	—	—	2,795	581	31,393
Registered Letters	58,075	2,427	4,927	15,321	14,815	—	720	3,182	7,243	106,710
Official Letters	241,503	705	509	568	660	—	—	528	812	245,285
Newspapers	1,320,944	59,927	2,314	120,021	7,628	—	—	3,412	9,904	1,524,150
Postal Parcels	135	5,577	675	8,390	1,969	—	—	—	—	16,746

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

There are 323 miles of telegraphs in Mauritius, and 63 miles of telephones (exclusive of private telephone services).

MONEY ORDERS.

Inland money orders were issued during the year 1907 for a total sum of Rs. 318,255, as against an aggregate sum of Rs. 344,686 during the previous year.

The foreign money orders show the following comparison:—

				Rs.
1907	...	...	...	333,745
1906	...	...	...	318,610

POSTAL ORDERS.

The British postal order system was extended to Mauritius in 1905. The number of postal orders sold and paid in 1907 was 1,511 and 777, of the value of Rs. 11,822 and Rs. 7,919 respectively.

POSTAL PARCELS.

The number of postal parcels dealt with during the year 1907 was 16,746. The general tendency is towards an increased use of the parcel post, and the local shopkeepers complain that the facilities are such as to interfere seriously with their business.

The total Post Office expenditure in 1907 was Rs. 167,626, as follows:—

				Rs.
Personal emoluments	...	...	...	105,546

Other Charges.

				Rs.
Overtime	...	...	...	3,943
Sea and territorial transit	...	...	...	7,342
Maintenance of telegraphs	...	...	...	6,232
Porterage of telegrams	...	...	...	9,621
Uniform	...	...	...	4,766
Gratuities to Masters of Vessels	...	...	...	2,805
Miscellaneous and special expenditure	...	...	...	27,371
				167,626

The total revenue for the year was Rs. 130,239, collected under the following heads:—

	Rs.
Postal correspondence	89,178
Telegraph receipts	19,849
Commission on money orders (Inland, Foreign, and Indian) . . .	11,177
Postal parcel service	4,992
Transit of correspondence	3,054
Private boxes	1,004
Commission on postal orders	224
Forfeited money orders	758
Miscellaneous	3
	130,239

IX.—MILITARY (TROOPS AND EXPENDITURE).

Mauritius is a fortified coaling station on the route between the Cape and India. The garrison on the 31st December, 1907, comprised 1,009 men of all ranks. The military expenditure during the year amounted to £112,357, and the Colonial contribution (including the amount paid in lieu of remission of customs duties) to £29,699.

The following railway concession made to the military is of course an indirect contribution:—

1. Officers travel 1st class for 2nd class fares;
2. Non-commissioned officers travel 2nd class for 3rd class fares; and
3. Privates are allowed to travel at the single fare for the double journey (3rd class). If they make only the single journey they pay full 3rd class fare.

X.—RAILWAYS.

The earnings in 1907 were Rs. 2,212,492, showing a decrease of Rs. 294,919 on those of the previous year. These figures are exclusive of Government traffic, which amounted to Rs. 168,083 in 1907, as against Rs. 180,947 in 1906.

The working expenses in 1907 were Rs. 1,795,379, with an increase of Rs. 102,094, as compared with 1906.

The percentage of working expenditure to earnings in 1907 was Rs. 75·41, as against Rs. 62·98 in the previous year.

The total length of line open in 1907 was 120 miles (exclusive of sidings).

MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS

TO ACCOMPANY THE REPORT
ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1907.

Meridian thro' POUCE
87°34' E. of Greenwich

Scale, 8 miles to the Inch

0 2 4 6 8 10



REFERENCE

Existing Railways & Telegraphs
Railway Stations
Other Telegraph lines
Narrow Gauge Light Railways
Main Roads



DISTRICTS

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 Port Louis | 6 Savanne |
| 2 Pamplemousses | 7 Black River |
| 3 Riv. du Rempart | 8 Pls. Wilhems |
| 4 Flacq | 9 Moka |
| 5 Grand Port | |

XI.—RODRIGUES.

Rodrigues is a dependency of Mauritius, inhabited mainly by fishermen and small cultivators, though stock raising is done on a small scale. The climate is healthy and the population, which was 4,231 in 1907, tends to increase. The people are of mixed blood in which the African blood predominates.

The revenue was Rs. 6,552 in 1907, as against Rs. 15,047 in 1906. The falling off was due to the remission of taxation consequent on a cyclone, a power that is conferred on the Governor by Regulation No. 1 of 1907.

The expenditure, exclusive of sums paid in Mauritius, of the cost of meteorological observations and of matters of account, was Rs. 36,211, being an increase of Rs. 1,877 on the expenditure of 1906.

Communication is maintained with Mauritius by a contract vessel, but the vessel does not run during the hurricane season.

There are two schools at Rodrigues, with a total of 284 boys and girls on the roll.

There is a magistrate, who practically governs the Island; a doctor; two clergymen (one Catholic and one Church of England); and a small force of police.

Rodrigues is an important station of the Eastern Telegraph Company, and a large staff of employés is maintained there for the service of the submarine cable.

XII.—GENERAL.

The following table gives the variations of the prices of sugar for the 12 months ended April, 1908, the standard being what is called crystallised vesous or Bombay sugar:—

					Rs.
1907	...	...	May	...	8·25
	..	...	June	...	8·25 nominal.
	..	...	July	...	8·50 "
	..	...	August	...	8·50
	..	...	September	...	8·25 to 8·50
	..	...	October	...	8·00 to 8·25
	..	...	November	...	8·00 to 8·50
	..	...	December	...	8·25 to 8·40
1908	...	...	January	...	8·50
	..	...	February	...	8·50
	..	...	March	...	10·00 nominal.
	..	...	April	...	9·40 to 9·50

GRAHAM BOWER,
Colonial Secretary.

14th August, 1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's
Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from
the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
549	Jamaica	1906-1907
550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia... ..	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906-1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar	"
564	Ashanti	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907-1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907
567	Seychelles	"
568	Bermuda	"
569	Wei-hai-wei	"
570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta	1907-1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907-1908
575	Bahamas	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907-1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907
579	St. Lucia	"
580	Fiji	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
48	Nyasaland Protectorate ...	Mineral Survey, 1905-6.
49	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c. ...	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria ...	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa ...	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907-8.
54	Newfoundland ...	Governor's Visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony ...	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks and Caicos Islands ...	Salt Industry

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 551.

NORTHERN NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR 1906-7.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 516.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December, 1907.



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No. 551.

NORTHERN NIGERIA.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 516.)

MR. WALLACE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

Church Crookham, Hants.

20th September, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report for Northern Nigeria for 1906 to April, 1907, with appendices which are based on information received from the Residents, the Commandant and the heads of the various departments. In accordance with your Lordship's instructions I have abbreviated this Report as far as possible, but still have to express my regret at its great length.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM WALLACE.

The Right Honourable,

The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1906-7.

I.—GENERAL.

The year under review has been a very peaceful one, the few military operations which it has been found necessary to carry out being (with the notable exception of the Bornu Marghi) on a small scale, and only against Pagan marauders and highway robbers.

One of the most important events was the relinquishment by Sir Frederick Lugard of his appointment as High Commissioner of Northern Nigeria on the completion of his term of office, and the selection of Sir Percy Girouard, R.E., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., to succeed him, with the title of High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief. This change may be regarded as marking the conclusion of the pioneering and the commencement of the development stage of this Protectorate.

Noteworthy among the events of the year was the visit paid to Northern Nigeria by Sir Walter Egerton, this being the first occasion on which the Governor of another British Colony has ever visited the Protectorate. Advantage was taken of this opportunity to discuss with him many points of mutual interest to both Governments.

I arrived in the Protectorate from leave of absence early in July, and took over the temporary administration of the Protectorate from Colonel Lowry Cole, who had just arrived at headquarters after having successfully dealt with the Hadeija difficulty.

MAHDISM.

The unrest in Bauchi, caused by the belief that a Mahdi would arise at Bima, in the neighbourhood of which the Fulani element is strong, occasioned much anxiety at headquarters, but was promptly dealt with by the Resident, the Hon. O. Howard. The leading Mallam, who was preaching the extermination of all Europeans, was arrested and executed, and others were deported, while a force occupied Bima and built a fort there. By the adoption of these measures the local garrisons of Bornu and Bauchi could then have put a force of 500 men in the field which would have been capable of crushing a recrudescence of this movement.

HONOUR TO SULTAN OF SOKOTO.

It was with great pleasure that I learned by cable that the Serikin Muslimin, in recognition of his loyal services in connection with the Satiru rising, had been appointed an

Honorary Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George by His Majesty, and I had the honour of personally investing the Sultan at Sokoto in the presence of a vast concourse of people. The Sultan conveyed to me his deep sense of gratitude and the assurances of continued loyalty, and handed me letters to that purport addressed to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

GENERAL SITUATION.

I am glad to report that, generally speaking, travel through the different Provinces of the Protectorate is absolutely safe for man, woman, or child. I must, however, make exception in the case of Bassa Province and certain pagan zones of the Provinces of Muri, Bauchi, and Yola, which have not hitherto been brought under control. It is hoped, however, that as political officers become better known to the people, the desired change in our relations with those more or less truculent tribes will soon be brought about. Meanwhile a vigorous policy of peaceful penetration is being pursued in all directions, and endeavours are being made to gain the confidence of the people, and thus gradually bring them under the influence of law and order. An important influence has been brought to bear in this direction by the establishment of the tin-mining industry in the Bauchi Plateau.

TAXATION.

The introduction of the Land and Revenue Tax has simplified the work of Residents and of the Headquarters Administrative Staff alike. With the advent of railways and better transport facilities, the receipts from import duties are bound to increase, and this in conjunction with the expected increase in the Land Revenue should gradually effect a balance of revenue and expenditure, and eventually render a grant-in-aid unnecessary.

STAFF.

What Sir Frederick Lugard said of his staff in 1904 I can only repeat with increased emphasis to-day:—"The whole-hearted devotion with which the staff has worked is beyond any praise of mine, and I do not believe that there is a more capable and devoted set of public servants in any of His Majesty's possessions, temperate or tropical." To this I heartily and unhesitatingly subscribe.

INDIANS.

The important experiment of introducing artisans and senior clerks from India has proved a complete success so far as the artisans are concerned, but in the case of the clerks it proved unsuccessful.

SANATORIA.

To the south of the Hausa States the Province of Bauchi provides a very promising field. This part of the Protectorate stands 4,000 feet above sea level, and with good communications will offer a site for a health resort and hill station, which will, doubtless, one day become the Simla of Nigeria.

PROPOSED RE-ORGANISATION.

The re-organisation of the seventeen provinces of the Protectorate into six provinces and the organisation of the constabulary on a new basis have been under consideration, and will be finally dealt with by the High Commissioner, Sir Percy Girouard.

RAILWAYS.

The decision of His Majesty's Government to authorize the construction of a railway from Baro, on the navigable Niger, to Zaria and Kano was taken subsequently to the period covered by this Report. The advantages of railway development may be briefly summarized as follows:—

A valuable assurance against fanatical outbreaks and possible disaster.

Internal defence will be simplified.

Economy in maintenance of garrisons.

Gradual abolition of the system of transport by carriers, thus setting free a large number of natives for productive employment.

From a commercial point of view:—

Capital will not flow in until a firmer hold of the country has been secured and the risks of destruction of property are minimised by means of rapid communication.

The British Cotton Growing Association have undertaken an Imperial enterprise and are ready to develop the cotton industry on a large scale, but this interior development is only possible by rail transport.

Large fields of tin have been located in Bauchi, and their rapid development is dependent on cheap transport.

It is to be hoped that the trade of the Protectorate will increase rapidly, but until better transport is arranged and the iron horse takes the place of the human carrier, Northern Nigeria cannot possibly realise the hopes and wishes of those who are assured of the great future before it.

II.—POLITICAL.—REVIEW OF PROVINCES.

SOKOTO.

Owing to the rising at Satiru in February, and the deposition of the Emir of Gando, which were fully dealt with by Sir F. D. Lugard in his Annual Report for 1905-6, administrative progress has not been so rapid as could be wished, but with the increased Political Staff much has been achieved in the organisation of the administration of the Province, which has now been divided into three divisions, Sokoto, Gando (embracing Jega District) and Argungu; these divisions into districts, and the districts into sub-districts. Good work has been done by the Assessment Survey Staff in collecting reliable information, checking the assessment statistics, and mapping. During the latter part of the year much assistance has been rendered to the Political Staff in the formation of self-contained districts by the Serikin Muslimin, C.M.G., of whom Mr. H. S. Goldsmith reports that in his opinion we have a native administrator of a very high order, who is quite capable of administering his large Province in accordance with the policy of the Protectorate. Progress in the formation of self-contained areas is necessarily slow, as hasty or ill-advised action would alienate the sympathy and lose the hearty co-operation of the native rulers which it at present enjoys. The Resident at Gando reports that 74 villages have been built and occupied since the advent of the British Administration. The Gando District was practically in a state of siege from 1853 to 1903, but the Fulani are returning to their own towns, and everywhere new hamlets bear witness to the state of security which the native believes in and enjoys.

The amount collected under Tribute for the financial year to 31st March, 1907, is £11,611, as against £5,673 for the corresponding period of last year.

Owing to loyal co-operation on the part of the Serikin Muslimin and the Emir of Gando, there has been no difficulty or friction with the District Headmen in getting the taxes paid at the proper time. The number of cattle in the Sokoto Division, based on native information, is 115,000; in Argungu, 10,000; and in Gando the admitted number taxable last year was 9,000; whereas now, entirely owing to the assistance of the Emir and Chiefs, the Resident has assessed 31,000 in Gando and 2,000 in Jega, which number should be more than doubled when the remainder of his division can be systematically visited. The principal wealth of the country lies in stock-breeding, viz., horses, cattle, and sheep; and the herds have been fairly free from disease.

The estimated male population of the Sokoto Division is 110,000. The incidence of taxation being 2s. 6½d. per adult male, the incidence per man, woman, and child works out at 8d. per head. I am unable to give the incidence for the whole Province, the population, male and female, of which is estimated at 561,200.

Eighty-two cases, 131 persons, were tried in the Sokoto, Gando with Jega, and Argungu Provincial Courts, and 114 were convicted. The prisoners are employed on sanitation and works. The work of the Provincial Courts is not very heavy, owing to the efficiency of the Native Courts, especially at Sokoto. There are 16 Native Courts in the Province, Sokoto Division 11, Gando 2, Jega 2, and Argungu 1. The number of cases reported and tried during the year is 920. The Sokoto, Gando, and Jega Courts appear to give satisfaction, and there are few appeals to the Resident from their decisions. It is the intention to establish other Courts with limited powers in all the district capitals. The prisoners sentenced are generally employed on scavenging work.

The uncertainty of the ultimate possession of territory on the northern boundary has caused some trouble, but as the Anglo-French Boundary Commissioners are now engaged in the delimitation of the frontier, these matters can, it is hoped, be soon finally adjusted.

The wirehead arrived at Sokoto on the 18th May, 1906, and telegraph stations have been opened at Sokoto and Jega.

Good quarters, though of the native type, have been built at Sokoto, Birni-n-Kebbi, the headquarters of the Gando Division, and at Argungu.

The general health of the Europeans has been good. There was one case of blackwater; the most prevalent ailment is malaria. The diseases prevalent amongst the natives are dysentery and bronchial troubles. A number of accidental injuries are reported. An epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis occurred in March when a large body of natives were congregated in Sokoto.

The sanitation of Sokoto and other native walled towns leaves much to be desired.

The number of natives attending the Native Hospital for treatment is increasing, and a large number of successful vaccinations have been satisfactorily performed with lymph sent out from England.

The Mohammedan School at Sokoto, under the supervision of the Resident, continues to make progress. There are ten boys attending the school, including two sons of the Emir of Gando and two sons of the Serikin Tambawel. All the boys

connected with the school will come into landed property later, and some of them will have administrative powers. At present Maliam Ibrahim, who has received an elementary education in England, is in charge of the school, and one of the political clerks, formerly a pupil teacher on the Gold Coast, has been detached to take an advanced class for three hours daily.

Major Alder Burdon, C.M.G., proceeded on leave, and handed over charge of the Province on June 25th, 1906, to Mr. H. S. Goldsmith, who was relieved by Mr. C. L. Temple on the 20th December.

KANO.

Major A. Festing, C.M.G., D.S.O., the Resident of Kano, reports that the Province is suffering from lack of continuity, owing to the absence of Dr. Cargill, C.M.G., and to the death of Captain H. C. B. Phillips, D.S.O., and other unfortunate circumstances, and that, therefore, there has been less progress than might have been expected in the assessment, which at present, in the district of Kano and also in the independent States of Kazaure, Daura, and Zongo is based on the old native assessment. The result is not very satisfactory, there being a certain amount of discontent. All this will, however, be done away with on the new assessment being made. The whole of the districts of Katagum and Katsena have been assessed according to our new scheme, and the results are most promising. The census, which is based on the old census of 1905 by Dr. Cargill, figures out at 2,714,000.

No military expeditions of any kind have been carried out with the exception of that against Hadeija, the last of the Fulani Emirates to be brought under British rule. This has been fully dealt with in the report for 1905-6. A new Emir has been appointed, and the headquarters moved from Hadeija to Katagum.

The Emir of Katsena, Haham Gero, was of necessity deposed, and a new Emir installed in his place.

Not much route sketching has been accomplished in Kano proper, but Katsena has been completely sketched by Mr. Palmer, and Gummel by Captain Hamilton Browne, D.S.O., who has also commenced the sketch of the sub-Province of Katagum.

The London and Kano Trading Company seem to be doing a good trade, but their ostrich farm has proved a failure. There is a considerable amount of gum in the Katsena district, and arrangements are being made by which any tribute which is received in kind will be bought at a valuation by this Company.

There is bound to be an ultimate boom in trade; any additional advantages in transport would be used at once by the Arab traders, who are already making use of the parcel post to a very considerable extent, more especially to convey skins down to the coast. It is generally recognised that if only facilities are given for transport, the old overland Tripoli route will be quite superseded by the down country route.

The total revenue shows an increase over that of last year of about £4,000; £19,000 as against £15,170. There has been a loss on all heads except Tribute and Caravan Tolls, the former giving an increase of £5,300, the latter giving an increase of £1,300. There is no difficulty in realising the cowries, in which most of the taxes are paid (Kano, 20,000 equals 12s.; Katsena, 20,000 equals 14s.).

About the same number of cases have been before the Provincial Court as last year, but serious crime is on the decrease. Six men were convicted of murder, and sentenced to death. Eleven cases of extortion and impersonation were tried, which cases with their kindred crimes still cause much trouble.

In 1905 there were only three useful Native Courts. There are now Alkali's Courts in each district in Katsena, which are working well and are controlled by the Alkali of Katsena, at Katagum, Hadeija, Gummel, Kazauri, and Daura, which work fairly well, but require much supervision. All the Emirs' Courts have been done away with except that of Kano.

The health of the Europeans remains much the same as in previous years. Unfortunately there has to be recorded one death from malarial fever, and one from blackwater fever. When the new houses are finished, there is no doubt that the general health will improve at once.

Native dispensaries have been instituted at Kano, Katsena, and Hadeija, but without any success. The Emir of Kano sends his children and followers, but the native as a rule at present seems suspicious of modern medical science.

Telegraphic communication is seldom interrupted, except during the rains or by a tornado. When iron posts have been furnished all the way, no doubt these interruptions will cease.

The roads throughout the Province have been improved, and rest houses built. The main road, especially from Zaria to Kano, is in thorough repair, and there is nothing to prevent animal transport being used on it throughout the year. A considerable improvement has been made in the Transport Department, and stores are delivered with fair regularity. It is hoped to offer facilities to traders by sending their stuff down country in returning carts at cheap rates.

BORNU.

Mr. W. P. Hewby, C.M.G., Resident of Bornu, remarks on a steady flow eastwards of pilgrims, or so-called pilgrims, to Mecca, some 5,000 during the year. A large percentage are Hausas and Fulani malcontents, of whom we are well rid.

The Province is now divided into six divisions, each under a Political Officer. The Marghi and Babur Pagans of South Bornu, and the Nguru and Bedde of North-West Bornu, are at last in hand. Part of the Kirikiri District, on the Katagum border, is the only place which now requires some attention. The total population is returned at 403,300.

With regard to the general feelings of the Emir and Native Chiefs, the Shehu is probably the most loyal and one of the best Emirs in the Protectorate, and every recognised headman is thought to be thoroughly in hand. On the north border relations between our officers and the French are good and friendly. In March Mr. C. Paul, with a patrol of 15 constables, was attacked and routed by a mob of Mangas from French territory at Bugduma. The mounted infantry at Dumjeri occupy three or four posts along the frontier, and have done good work in repulsing raiding bands from the French side. Our relations, also, with the German officers are excellent. Permission was granted for two officers to come to Kuka for astronomical observations; these two officers arrived by steam launch from Fort Lamy. Mr. Hanns Vischer, Third Class Resident, left Tripoli on the 9th July, 1906, and arrived in the Protectorate at Yo on December 12th, after an arduous and adventurous journey across the Sahara.

It has been decided to remove the native capital from Kuka to Maiduguri, the increasing commercial importance of which rendered this step necessary, though it seems a pity from the sentimental point of view, Kuka having been the capital for so many decades.

The faith of the peasantry in the British Court is unbounded, and the number of would-be litigants is incredible. The number of cases tried was 165 criminal and 4 civil; probably, some 900 informal cases were heard. Stock stealing is the great crime, but it is dealt with by the Native Courts, of which there are 15. It is a matter for regret that after 4½ years these courts, which are corrupt and distrusted by the people, are not, with the exception of the Head Court and perhaps two of the District Courts, to be trusted to dispense justice, and require much supervision.

The total revenue of the Province amounts to £13,700, which, compared with last year, £10,279, shows an increase of £3,421.

By far the most important tax is the tribute. Since 1904 there has been a steady decline in the amount of tolls—1904,

£2,194; 1906, £128 6s.; this is attributable to the fact that tollable goods have been largely paid upon before arriving in the Province, and to the exemptions on certain articles. The value of the registered trade stands at £25,000, and the estimate of the total is £40,000.

The medical officers consider the health of the Europeans bad, but only one death took place, Mr. J. M. Stewart, who died at Maiduguri on November 9th, a most promising officer. The Native Hospital, started by the Shehu, has proved a great boon.

Carrier transport is foreign to the country, and pack oxen are used almost entirely; the carts sent up in 1905 have been largely used, but the wooden wheels have not stood the climate. Iron wheels are suggested.

There is a considerably larger quantity of cotton grown all over Bornu than there was two years ago, and the local price is about $\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $\frac{1}{4}d.$ per lb., but, except in the districts round the River Gongola, owing to lack of cheap transport, Bornu is too remote for the home market. Samples are being sent home to Manchester.

A 26-foot steel boat was brought out from home and has been placed on the River Wobe, which was this year navigable by small boats for, probably, 250 miles from Lake Chad towards Kano from August to November, inclusive.

The harvests have been very satisfactory. The Maria Theresa dollar continues to be the chief money of the country, although its importation into Bornu is prohibited, but every effort is being made to circulate British currency, which passes generally, but is largely carried away by traders from the Province down-country.

There have been three military expeditions during the year. One against the Marghis for continuous outrages upon the Maiduguri road, on which traders were killed and all their goods and donkeys carried off; one against Shuwa Arabs, close to the German frontier, to avenge the murder of the Head of the Kwalme Shuwas, a third class chief; and a more important operation against the Chibuks, a small tribe of savages, who year after year have been the chief marauders on the Bornu-Yola road.

A Game Reserve has been created for some miles round the western shore of Chad, and it is hoped it will be made effective.

A short description of Lake Chad, by Mr. Resident Hanns Vischer, is given for general information.

LAKE CHAD.

The lagoons which lie in the depression known under the name of Lake Chad, receive their water from various rivers from the west, south-west, and south.

No water comes from the sandy desert to the north and north-east; and to the south-east some uneven country prevents the Batta from reaching Chad with the waters from Wadai.

The Bahar-el-Gazal, to the east, with its continuation to the Bodele and Egei country, lies lower than the level of the Chad, and may, therefore, be regarded as the outlet of the Chad lagoons. Probably once there was open continuation of the rivers flowing into Chad, to the east, but we have at present no proof of its connection with Chad, except the great amount of water found everywhere in the valley, at the very low depth, which can come from nowhere but the lagoons to the west.

The two chief tributaries of Chad are the Komadugu of Yo, or "River Wobe," to give its official title in Northern Nigeria, and the Shari.

The first originates in the eastern Hausa States, and traversing about 300 miles from west to east, flows into Chad near Yo, on the west shore. It receives no water from Bornu proper, and is a flowing stream for the greater part of the year, carrying most water at the end of December.

The Shari is the greatest river of the Chad system. Not far from its mouth it unites with the Logone, and for a great distance is a navigable stream, carrying actually a small flotilla of French steamers. It flows into Chad on its southern corner, divided into several arms.

For some distance the Shari marks the frontier between the French and German territories.

Between the Shari and Komadugu, there is the Yedseram. It collects its water from the western slope of the Mandara Hills and from the Marghi country, and flows due north for a considerable distance, when it turns east and vanishes into a swamp near Dikoa.

The rivers near Ullgo and Wobbio, as well as the channel near Missene, appear to be the continuation of the Yedseram, but these water-channels only have a river-like appearance for a short way, ending as they begin, in a swamp.

The Alo lagoon near Konduga, British Bornu, to a great extent receives its waters from the Yedseram.

The Maiduguri River is in connection with this lagoon. Former travellers called it the Ngadda. It flows for some months in the year from south to north to disappear in the swamps near Chad, a little west of the Yedseram.

BAUCHI.

The Hon. Oliver Howard, the Resident, reports excellent crops throughout the whole Province. During the famine of 1904 enormous numbers of cattle, sheep, horses, &c., were

devoured or sold, and two years of plenty have been required to re-establish prosperity. This year's bountiful harvest will go largely to rebuying stock from the Kano markets.

The change for the better in the Emirate is most noticeable—taxes are paid readily, and calls for labour cheerfully responded to: the poorer classes—pagans, have been fired with a desire to improve their lot by trading.

As soon as communications are improved the natural wealth should be developed, beeswax, ivory, vegetable oil, iron, girin fama (vegetable fibre), rubber, shea, tin, and cotton. The output of the latter will probably be doubled, as at present it can only be exported from the southern part and from districts adjoining the River Gongola.

The assessment of tribute is reported as being light and uniform in incidence. Practically the whole tribute was collected by the end of November, and in the following weeks was divided and accounted for. There is an increase of £7,234 in the revenue over last year's figure, £5,826.

In the district of Kanna under Captain Foulkes, in the south, great progress is reported. Before 1906 practically no tax had been collected. In the early part of 1906 Serikin Kanna had collected nearly the whole of the tax due from truculent subordinates. These independent pagan tribes are being brought under Serikin Kanna, but for some little time he will be dependent on Government for support. The census and a plane table sketch of this district are in progress. A market has been established at Kanna and road-breaking has practically ceased. In the Ningi District, where slave-dealing and highway robbery have been common, the headman has been deposed, and a new headman has been installed with a council both executive and judicial. The Bukuru District has made extraordinary progress under Mr. A. C. Francis with the help of the Niger Company's mining officials.

Another district, the Wurji, which has never been under control before, was visited for the first time. In all these pagan districts difficulty was experienced in even being allowed to enter the country, let alone administer, and in some cases force had to be resorted to, but there is every reason to believe that this will not be necessary in future.

The total population of the Province was estimated last year at 920,000.

The amount collected by caravan tolls shows an increase over last year of £913; £1,940 against £1,027. As the wealth of Bauchi and other large trade centres increases, large caravans prefer to pay their tolls rather than to split up and sell at country markets where cash is not to be found and the demand for luxuries not great. It is noteworthy that caravans often refuse to sell their goods for cowries, and insist on cash payments.

The construction of bungalows and a Court House is proceeding apace.

The eastern part is most suited for transport animals, and so the headquarters for the transport bullocks has been shifted to Gombe. No metalled roads have as yet been made.

Beginnings at sanitation have been made by the Emir in the native town, and the swamp between the station and town drained. Two deaths of Europeans have occurred, one from blackwater fever.

The number of cases tried before the Provincial Court has increased, owing to the assistance given by the Native Administration in bringing cases before the Resident. It is to be noticed that cases of extortion and robbery have diminished.

There are 14 Native Courts; of these it cannot be said that the majority are as yet as efficient as they might be.

Slave dealing is rapidly diminishing. The town of Diba Habe, formerly a noted slave market, has been brought under control. The total slaves freed during 1906 was 161.

ZARIA.

The Resident, Captain C. W. J. Orr, R.A., reports that much time and labour was devoted in the early part of the year to making a settlement with the Emir and Chiefs of the Land Tribute which had been received for the previous year, a task of some magnitude, full enquiry having to be instituted into the numerous differences that arose.

The Tribute is not a very complicated matter in the Gwari and other districts in the western portion of the Province, since these parts are already divided into Chieftainships, and each chief can, as a rule, collect his tax in currency and pay in direct to the Resident, and the Administrative divisions have been fairly accurately defined.

With the Emirate of Zaria, however, affairs are very different, since the towns owned by the various Headmen are dotted at random about the Emirate, the Headmen residing at Zaria and having little or no knowledge of their towns. It therefore became an urgent necessity to divide the Emirate into self-contained districts, each with a Headman residing in his district, and visiting his towns; and this has formed the main work of the year.

A scheme was drawn up and submitted to the Emir, who saw the advantage of it, and it is now being put into execution, and an immense improvement in the collection of the Tribute will result.

The rough assessment of practically the entire Province, with the exception of a few unsettled districts, has been completed, and considerable progress made in mapping.

The population of Zaria town is 22,063, the district of Birnin-Gwari 2,873, and the total of the Province approximately 230,000—hardly 11 persons to the square mile.

The volume of trade passing through the two Caravan Toll Stations shows imports £58,837, as against £78,181 in the previous year, a decrease of £19,244, which the Resident attributes to evasion of the Toll stations by small traders rather than a diminution of trade. Exports £45,021, as against £44,602 for 1905, an increase of £419.

Caravan tolls have decreased by £300, while tribute has increased by £640; most of the other heads of revenue show slight increases.

The total revenue for the year is £8,281, as against £7,681 in 1905-6.

The Political Staff was increased during the year, and the Province was consequently better toured than at any previous time since its inauguration, the average in the Province for the year being $4\frac{1}{4}$.

The general health of Europeans and natives has been better than last year, but the housing accommodation of the former is still far from good, consisting only of mud huts.

147 cases were tried in the Provincial Court during the year, with 129 convictions.

Arrests of natives, other than Government servants, have been effected almost entirely through the chiefs, and have been satisfactorily carried out.

Several new Native Courts have been instituted, and on the whole have worked satisfactorily.

The road through the Zaria Province, from Zungeru to Zaria, has been much improved, and some bridging effected. From Zaria to the Kano border, a good cart road was constructed by local labour, and rest houses built outside the towns. The arrangements for stocking transport depôts, the building of rest houses and upkeep, and travellers' supplies, involved an enormous amount of extra work on the Officers of the Province.

Corn was plentiful early in the year, and another good harvest reaped in November, so that the distress caused by the 1903-4 failure has disappeared. The natives are showing an increased tendency to leave the walled towns and live permanently on their farms; fresh land has been taken up and many new farms cultivated.

Several of the Gwari towns south of Zungeru have cultivated cotton from seed given them, and there is every hope that it will become a flourishing industry among them. Zaria continues to provide a certain amount for the Kano market, but

until the railway reaches here, export for the home market is impossible.

Rubber is collected in the country between the Kaduna and Gurara Rivers.

Currency has at last become popular, the bulk of the taxes being paid in silver; and in the Zaria District copper has been freely circulated.

The cowrie rate of exchange in Zaria remained constant throughout the year at 1,600 to 1s.

The Church Missionary Society have opened a Mission Station, partly industrial, it is believed, in the Gwari country at Kuta. The station at Ghierku has been practically abandoned, and the headquarters removed to Zaria, where Dr. Miller superintends a small school and keeps a dispensary. The Toronto Industrial Mission at Wushishi does not appear to have made very much headway.

Although some of the pagan tribes are very truculent, on two occasions only has it been necessary to resort to military force to enforce orders; but no fighting took place.

MURI.

The Resident, Captain F. H. Ruxton, reports that the Province has been most unfortunate in the lack of continuity of service of the various Residents in charge during the year, no less than four officers having been in charge. The staff has since been largely increased. The settled population of the Province is slowly increasing, though greatly retarded by the very high rate of infant mortality. It is estimated at about half a million, including the almost unknown Munshi tribe. The general tendency at present is emigration from the towns on to the land, owing to increased security.

After the burning of the Niger Company's store at Abinsi in January, 1906, the traffic on the River Benue practically came to an end, but complete confidence is now restored, a patrol having cleared out the nests of robbers in July.

A line of policy is now being followed by which the small semi-independent Fulani States on the River Benue will be re-absorbed in the Emirate of Muri, thus facilitating administration.

The Ankwe country in the north-west has been visited for the first time since 1900. This country is the most fertile portion of the Province, with the exception of the valley of the River Taraba. No roads have as yet been built, but the bush paths are kept cleared.

The revenue shows an increase of £100, being £4,260, against £4,149. The only head which shows an increase is Tribute,

with an increase of £800, while all other heads show a decrease, there being on tolls a decrease of nearly £300.

In the Provincial Court 40 more convictions were obtained than last year, chiefly on account of evasions of the Revenue Laws; of these, the large majority were contraventions of the Canoe Proclamation.

There are now 13 Native Courts; none too many considering the area and lack of homogeneity of the different independent states.

The trade shows a slight falling off, £26,700, against £31,400 of last year. The Toll Stations are established at Amar, Lau, Ibi, Wase, and Tunga, but the latter was abolished in December, 1906. Cattle and kolas from the south brought in exchange for the cloth from the north form the largest trade, as they always have.

The authorised strength of the police is 84. They are certainly more efficient than they used to be, and extortion seems to have ceased.

Animal transport has been used to a certain extent on the Bauchi road, but the tsetse belts on either bank of the River Benue prevent any extension at present.

The only economic development has been the rubber trade, several firms competing. This comes from over the Southern Nigeria and Kameruns frontiers.

The Zinnas and Wurkuns were visited by a Political Officer with a military escort to open up these two districts. Complete success attended the visits, especially in the latter case, as the trade road to the north, to the important trading community of Lau, is now re-opened.

NASSARAWA.

The Resident, Major J. C. Blakeney, reports good progress in the assessment of Nassarawa Province, though a large part of the east of the Province is still untouched, including the Mada and Munshi tribes. Great progress has been made in getting into touch with the pagans in the Jemaa-n-Daroro District, which is on the main road to the Bauchi tin mines, and excellent work has been done in assessment. But the assessment of tribute will require careful checking and revising, as the incidence is lower than in any other Province, and it is hoped to effect a just increase in this, and put it on an equal basis with other Provinces.

The population, including a portion of that almost unknown tribe the Munshis, is estimated at 601,000. This was greatly over-estimated last year.

The Province is divided into five administrative districts, each with a Political Officer in charge.

There were 63 cases tried in the Provincial Court, including only three cases against slavery laws. There are five Native Courts working, which adjudicated on 277 cases.

The only form of transport used was carriers, but carts have been since started on the Loko-Keffi road leading to the Bauchi tin mines, and are reported to have worked well.

The police consist of one officer and 50 non-commissioned officers and men. Recruiting is easy. The health of the prisoners is good in the dry season but bad in the rains.

The total revenue for the year 1905-6 amounts to £4,820, an increase on last year of £1,083. The most satisfactory increase is in Tribute (£871), total, £2,108; and Caravan Tolls (£223), total, £2,418.

NUPE.

The Acting Resident, Mr. E. Creighton Duff, reports that an enormous amount of work has been got through in connection with assessment, but there still remains a large part to be done.

The movement of the population here, as everywhere, is from the towns on to the land; this is especially the case from Bida City. An increasing number of the hitherto idle ranks have taken to farming and trading. There is a constant return of people from Nassarawa, Ilorin, and Zaria Provinces, fugitives from the Ganaga War in 1881. The total population is returned at 123,500.

The Administrative Divisions are now three, each under a Political Officer.

There is an excellent second class road from Bida to Dakmon, two bridges, with masonry piers and iron rails, having been built, and some embankments over two bad swamps; wheeled traffic has been proved possible all the year round. This road should benefit European traders, as giving cheap transport from Dakmon on the Kaduna River, and allowing them to purchase native produce in Bida where the Niger Company has now opened a station. Three new stations have also been opened at Baro, the intended terminus to the railway, by the Niger Company, Siegler and Company, and John Holt and Company.

One hundred cases were tried by the Provincial Court. There is little difficulty in effecting arrests and causing summonses to be obeyed. The working of the Native Courts (seven) has been generally satisfactory, 121 cases having been dealt with, mostly for debt; these courts freed 24 slaves by manumission.

The total revenue collected amounts to £10,370, an increase on last year (£9,038) of £1,332. By far the largest increase has been made under Caravan Tolls, closer supervision preventing evasion.

The value of the registered trade is as follows:—1904, £55,736; 1905, £117,721; 1906, £129,200. Kolas fell slightly, but stone, potash, live-stock, and imported goods rose substantially.

Assessment has been carried out by personal visits of the Political Staff, and has been completed in the Bida, Kaduna, and Agaie Districts. There still remains the whole of the trans-Kaduna, Kede River, Lapai, Sakka, and Gwari Districts, about three-fifths of the whole Province. The farms and hamlets are being grouped into districts under District Headmen, who have not any opportunities for extortion, as each hamlet knows the exact amount of its share of the tax.

A District Superintendent of constabulary was in charge of the constabulary, which numbers 60 strong.

The ginnery erected at Shonga is rapidly developing the cotton industry. Seed has been distributed in the best growing districts. Excellent crops of all kinds were obtained, and cultivation is being extended everywhere.

The Church Missionary Society School, under the Rev. F. Komlosy's supervision, has shown marked progress. Cotton seed was distributed among the pupils, and records were kept of the success in the individual farms.

KABBA.

Mr. J. A. Ley-Greaves, the Resident, reports that, having been in charge of the Province during the whole period under review, he has had time to visit every district, and in fact almost every town, effecting considerable alterations in the assessment and obtaining much valuable information for the provincial records. The Tribute Tax has now been levied on what it is hoped will prove a fair and equitable basis, and is generally readily obtained. Some difficulty was experienced with the towns near the Lagos border, as happened similarly in Ilorin, the towns of the Lagos hinterland paying no direct taxes to the Government.

The population is estimated at 118,500, Lokoja town accounting for 13,950.

The province is nominally divided into four Administrative Districts, but owing to the shortage in the Political Staff from various causes, it was found impossible to work these districts separately, as originally intended.

The revenue shows a slight increase over last year.

The general health of both Europeans and natives has been good. Several deaths have occurred amongst the former, but in the majority of cases the patients have been brought in from other parts of the Protectorate.

A severe epidemic of small-pox occurred in Lokoja native town, but stringent measures taken in conjunction with the

Native Town Council stamped out the disease, which was also rife at Kabba and Egga, causing many deaths at the latter place early in the year.

Owing to the general absence of crime, and the existence of the Cantonment Court, very little is required of the Provincial Court. Summonses are readily obeyed and arrests easily effected. Of the five Native Courts, three are doing good work, and apparently command every confidence in their respective districts, 152 cases having been dealt with.

The total revenue amounts to £4,321, an increase of £197 on that collected last year.

A falling off has occurred in the Caravan Tolls, accounted for by the fact that several exemptions from tolls were made, which remission has led to a large increase of trade. The work done by the Resident in assessing has borne fruit in the substantial increase of £950, which increase will probably be maintained for some years to come, as the Lokoja trade increases.

The Constabulary force numbers 126, of whom 65 are stationed at Lokoja, and shows an improvement both as regards class of recruits and general efficiency.

Owing to the prevalence of tsetse fly, animal transport is not at present utilised.

The chief exports are rubber, palm kernels, palm oil, benniseed and shea nuts; also a small quantity of gum. There is as regards last year a marked increase in the export of cotton, shea, and ground-nuts, and palm kernels. The British Cotton Growing Association opened a ginnery at Lokoja on the 8th February, 1906, which up to December 31st had ginned 1,847 bales, weighing 159 tons 7 lbs. They have in course of erection at the ginnery an hydraulic baling press, which will greatly facilitate transport. On their experimental farm of 50 acres at Lokoja, the selected native cotton seed gives better results, so far, than the imported.

The only expedition of a military character was directed against the town of Isua for numerous lawless acts, notably robbery, culminating in murder amongst Hausa traders.

ILORIN.

The Resident, Dr. P. M. Dwyer, reports the total volume of the trade; imports and exports registered amounts to £119,833, a very respectable figure. Kolas are the most important; in fact, the increase alone on this trade is £20,000. Further, as all imported cloth is not registered at the toll stations, the total trade is more probably something like £200,000.

At the Lagos Agricultural Show, in November, the Ilorin men obtained eight first prizes, two second, three third, a gold medal, and a special prize offered by His Excellency

Sir Walter Egerton, Governor of Southern Nigeria, who had passed through the Ilorin Province in September, en route to Zungeru. Horses, cattle, sheep, turkeys, leather, cotton, ginned and unginned, brasswork, iron and mats were the Ilorin productions.

In June the chief officials of the Lagos Railway met at Ilorin, and were greatly struck with the open nature of the country on their way up. Important caravan traders in conversation with the Resident show great interest in the idea of a railway especially as they say that the kola trade (this year 201 tons, value £51,450) will be immense, if only the rates are kept low. They will not take the trouble to go to Lagos themselves, but will buy their kolas in Ilorin, since, as it is, the price of imported cloth is almost as low in the up-country markets as at Lagos.

The assessment of the tribute having been kept exceedingly low, there has not been the slightest friction this year in the collection, and this is the more surprising when it is remembered that there are large towns over the Southern Nigeria border which pay nothing at all to their Government. There has been some slight difficulty in the re-arrangements of the District Headmen, as the old absentee landlords, the fief-holders, have not as yet entered into the spirit of the new method of collection, but this will be satisfactorily adjusted.

There were 52 cases tried by the Provincial Court—22 being larceny—and 284 cases tried in the Native Courts.

There has been a regrettable series of attacks by armed bands of ruffians on outlying farm villages. These the police, being so few in number, cannot cope with, as it would entail patrolling the whole Province. False coin is also on the increase, 2s. and 1s. pieces, good enough even to deceive a European. As regards the police, taking into consideration their small numbers, they have on the whole done good work. There has not been brought against them a single charge of robbery or extortion.

Several buildings have been erected by the Public Works Department. There is a good second-class unmetalled road from Buda Egbe in Southern Nigeria, to the Niger at Ogudu and to Pataji, via Lafaji, both branches passing through Ilorin.

The health of the Europeans has been excellent.

The season has been one of the best for years, every form of crop being in abundance, and many new farms have been opened up.

Over 300 tons of unginned cotton were brought from the Province, and it is anticipated that this will be more than doubled next year. The population is estimated at 179,900, last year's numbers being overestimated.

As in most other Provinces, there is a substantial increase in the revenue collected, namely, £2,000; £8,870 having been

collected, against £6,820 last year. Caravan tolls and tribute have increased by £2,100 and £1,200, respectively; and the increase on the total would have been very large had it not been for the £1,600 previously collected for hawkers' licences, now discontinued, and accordingly lost, all the heads showing slight increases.

YOLA.

Mr. G. N. Barclay, the Resident of Yola Province, reports that the attitude of the Fulanis is all that could be desired. Numbers of immigrants have come to settle from that portion of Adamawa under German Protection, in spite of the new taxation and objectionable—to the Fulani—slave laws. Last year the migration was in the contrary direction, into that part of German Adamawa which was not yet under control. The famine which devastated the country so terribly in 1904 still continues among some of the pagan tribes, but has been alleviated very largely by the abundant crops of the Fulani, and assistance, in the shape of corn, rendered by the Government. It is estimated that fully 50 per cent. of the riverain pagan tribes in the Gongola Valley have died from starvation, and numbers more are still scattered over the country in search of food. To quote two cases: The towns of Banjeran and Shillem originally contained 8,000 and 4,000 apiece, but now only 336 and 676 respectively; such is the effect of a bad famine caused by the destruction of the grain crops by aphids.

It is satisfactory to note that the trade routes to Yola are for the most part safe, from the north-west down the River Gongola past the Longudas, from north past the Kilbas, and from the west past the Zinnas and Mannas. There are still several tribes as yet unvisited, notably the Yangerus, Buras, and Lalas.

The total population is estimated at 185,000.

Uncertainty still exists about the exact boundary line between our own and the German Protectorate south of the Benue, but a temporary line has been agreed upon by the respective Residents.

Crime appears to be on the decrease. In the six Native Courts, which it may be said command every confidence, 131 cases were tried, as against 170 in 1905, a decrease of 29. As, however, these courts mostly deal with petty cases, this cannot alone be taken as a test. In the Provincial Court there were tried only 64 cases, resulting in 73 convictions and 28 acquittals, as against 101 cases in 1905 with 117 convictions and 28 acquittals. A very satisfactory point is the diminution in the "extortion" crimes, three cases in 1906, 12 in 1905, and 16 in 1904. Unfortunately, as previously noticed, witnesses came forward with great reluctance, and their evidence cannot be relied upon.

Telegraphic communication has been established, but it is subject to interruptions, and owing to the rocky nature of the country and several belts of tsetse fly, animal transport is still a failure, and in fact is likely to remain so until a cart road is made to Bornu, and a way can be found round these belts.

The Resident confirms the Resident of Muri in saying that the slave traffic on the river is now a thing of the past, or nearly so.

The total revenue amounts to £3,872, against £2,840 last year, an increase of £1,032. The total volume of trade registered is £19,600 as against £15,400 last year. Native cloths take the lead in value (£5,800), these being more durable, though less gaudy, than the imported stuffs, and much preferred by the Fulani. Cloth weaving is a very important industry, especially in some of the pagan districts.

The Emir and Headmen have completely come round to the new method of taxation inaugurated; the whole has been collected without the slightest difficulty. Of course, the famine-stricken districts have not as yet been taxed. They are still living a hand-to-mouth existence. The former remarks only refer to Adamawa proper.

Some cotton seed has been distributed by the British Cotton Growing Association, and is appreciated by the Fulani—already keen growers of cotton—on account of its superior quality. But the local demand puts a prohibitive price, 3*d.* per lb.—prohibitive, that is to say, to the non-native trader, as there is a large native trade.

BASSA.

The Resident, Mr. D. Cator, reports that for the first time possible the Province has been divided into two Administrative Districts, but these are only tentative at present. They may for convenience be styled Dekini or Western, and Akwacha or Eastern Districts. A company of the Second Northern Nigeria Regiment has been posted throughout the year at Akwacha, and has provided escorts for the Resident from time to time, but little has been accomplished yet at any distance from that place. Several murders and assaults amongst the natives have been reported during the year from the Okpoto country, but, unfortunately, owing to the hostile attitude of the people, no action could be taken, the Resident having clear instructions to avoid any fighting. Sanction has now been received from the Secretary of State to take such measures as may be considered necessary promptly to punish overt acts of violence within reachable distance of headquarters, and this will be acted on as occasion requires, and an endeavour made

effectively to occupy the country by a policy of peaceful penetration. This will take some time, but action similarly from the Southern Nigerian side of the frontier will considerably assist in hastening matters.

The population is estimated at 525,150, of which the Igara and Okpoto are put at 400,000, but this is considered to be over-estimated. The figures will be revised as opportunity offers.

Tribute is now generally assessed at 3s. per head for adult Hausas, Nupes, and other aliens; 1s. for the Igara, Bassa Nge, and Bassa Komo tribes; and 3d. for such of the Okpoto tribes as are touched.

Eighty-nine cases were tried in the Provincial Court, of which 39 were slavery cases. Great difficulty is experienced in getting complainants and witnesses to come in; 141 cases were tried in the Native Courts.

The revenue for the year amounted to £2,305, as against £1,940 in 1905-6, an increase of £365. Tribute is increased by £560, and licences by £116, but Caravan Tolls are decreased by £323; the other heads approximate to last year's receipts very closely.

There are three Political Officers now in the Province. Excepting one case of invaliding, through blackwater fever, the health of the Europeans has been good. There was an epidemic of small-pox at Mozum at the beginning of the year amongst the natives; a few cases occurred in November of sleeping sickness amongst the troops at Akwacha.

Crops appear to have been good all round.

The trade in horses to the Igbo country still continues.

A great stimulus in cotton-growing is observed. This crop is chiefly raised by the Bassa Komos, who are purely agricultural. Cowries, at 2,600 to the 1s., and brass rods, at 3d. to 4½d., each are still in use, but silver is more appreciated, and bronze coins have been introduced and circulated in Dekina.

The Church Missionary Society Mission Stations at Kpata and Akabe continue, but the attendance at school cannot be considered large.

KONTAGORA.

The Resident, Major W. S. Sharpe, C.M.G., reports that the whole of the Province has been approximately assessed and now, as opportunity offers, each town will be visited by a Political Officer and re-assessed, if necessary. The population is on the increase, and is returned at 80,000, this increase being due to the return of the people owing to the settlement of the country. The Dakkakari tribe is still in a backward state, and cannot be taxed at present owing to starvation and disease; also the islanders of the Niger require better supervision; a

Political Officer is being put over both these districts. The road breaking by the Dakkakari is now a thing of the past. In some small operations in this country the Resident was severely wounded by an arrow. In this Province, as in all others, an increased feeling of security is leading the population back to the land. The Emir remains loyal, though his former life of fighting and raiding makes it difficult to teach him our organisation and system of rule.

The work of the Provincial Court has been lessened by the increased powers of the Native Courts—summonses are readily obeyed, and arrests have met with no opposition; 50 cases were tried by the Native Courts. The Emir and District Headmen loyally back up the Resident, and do all in their power—in their own interests—to put a stop to any dilatoriness displayed by the natives and Village Headmen in paying tribute. There is no extortion, as the fief-holders are the local heads of sub-districts and village groups, and these only are allowed to collect tribute. The work of grouping, and in some cases re-grouping, under the proper district heads has been completed. The health of the European staff, on the whole, has been good, there having been only one case of blackwater fever. Dr. Watson has done much towards the sanitation of the station and the native town, in which native sanitary inspectors have been appointed. No progress can be reported in dispensary work; scarcely any native will come forward willingly to the Doctor, and his native patients are almost entirely confined to Government servants.

Carriers are still the only transport used.

There are excellent cotton-growing districts, especially in the north-east, but their distance from a waterway at present precludes the exportation at a profit. The Assistant Resident at Yelwa is endeavouring to organise a system of cheap transport to Shonga. An agent of the British Cotton Growing Association paid a visit and made several excellent suggestions.

A member of the Church Missionary Society visited Kontagora, but considered that the attitude of the natives did not warrant the establishment of a school.

The revenue of the year amounts to £1,894, as against £1,535 in 1905-6, the increase, accounted for by tolls, being £533, against £481, and tribute £1,481, against £524. Decreases under all other heads.

BORGU.

The Resident, Captain F. M. Fremantle, reports that an entirely new census has been taken, which shows that the total adult population, exclusive of children, is 27,300, this shows an average of 2·5 per square mile. On this census a re-assessment of tribute has been made, and well received; the natives themselves are beginning to recognise their individual liability.

The Resident insists on every penny of the tax being paid, thus trying to instil into the Borgus some little regularity and promptness, so entirely lacking in their characters. Nearly every village has been put on the route sketches, in fact the sketch of the whole Province is completed. Serikin Kaiama throws himself into the work of administration, and has some real influence over the people. Serikin Bussa cannot be said to be so satisfactory, but is eager to accompany the Resident on tour himself. But his idea of being a "big King" appears to be confined to owning land and making further additions to his possessions, not in showing himself worthy of the name.

The judicial work is light, only 17 criminal cases, and three civil, resulting in 13 convictions. The Poison Proclamation will be difficult to carry out, for the use of poison is the secret of the traditional strength of the Borgus. The Native Courts, "existing only in name," are just beginning to send in returns; in time they will be a help to the Administration. There were no slaves freed during the year.

The total revenue collected amounts to £3,319, against £3,546 collected last year, showing a slight decrease. The amount from tribute has more than doubled in the last two years, but caravans show a falling off, £2,175, 1904; £1,965, 1905; £1,766, 1906.

Some of the falling off is due to the cash (no tolls are taken in cash) which traders are taking to Lagos instead of exportable produce for the purchase of kolos. The volume of trade is about £51,300, about a quarter of that in Ilorin; the chief items carried up-country being kolos, £30,000; imported cloth, £2,700; down-country live-stock, £14,200; natron, £950; and skins, £870.

There was one case of blackwater fever amongst the European staff, otherwise the health was good.

Pack transport is at last being introduced, and will probably be feasible for four months in the year.

The Borgus are good but lazy farmers. A fair quantity of cotton, estimated at 30 tons, is grown in the north, and there is a likelihood of its cultivation being extended by accepting cotton in lieu of cash for tribute. Jute (Farin Rama) is grown to a certain extent, but the local price, 10*d.* per lb., debars at present all idea of establishing a trade. Cotton, though the staple is not long, gives more hope.

III.—SLAVERY.

SOKOTO.

The Native Courts of the Sokoto Province have freed 106 slaves during the year. The total number of slaves freed during the year is 113, as against 45 for 1905.

Traffic in slaves has almost ceased, and what still exists is carried on by traders travelling from province to province. The Serikin Muslimin has done everything in his power to assist the Resident to carry out the policy of the Protectorate. He invariably supervises the Native Courts in dealing with slavery questions, as he is only too well aware of the fact that the sympathies of the courts must still, naturally, be with the masters.

KABBA.

Eight slaves were freed during the year in this Province. Lokoja appears to be the destination of many slaves. They are brought down more especially from Yola, by way of the Benue River. Special attention has been given to this traffic, but with variable success so far, the cases being extremely difficult of detection.

BAUCHI.

Much information has been acquired during the year as to the slave trade, and the bush route followed by the Kano slave caravans. The districts of Waja, Tula, and Tangale have been visited, and are now partially under control. These districts have for some years past supplied a very great number of slaves for the Kano markets. These proceedings are now conducted with the greatest secrecy, and not, as was formerly the case, in the open markets. The town of Aquiam, which is situated in the north of Bauchi Province, was an important slave market for Bornu and Kerrakerre slaves; this town, which is under the Emir of Bauchi, has always maintained a state of semi-independence, and was not thoroughly controlled until this year. It can safely be asserted that the slave trade in Aquiam District has now practically ceased. The Ningi District has continued to trade in slaves this year, and slaves are sold to Kano traders both at Ningi town and various Wurji towns. This trade is being effectively checked. A common practice in Ningi was for a man to strip and sell his brother to Kano traders. The latter would escape in the course of a week and share his purchase money with his brother. I am credibly informed that these fraudulent sales have done much to deter the Kano slave buyers from purchasing in Ningi. There can be no doubt that the famines in the Waja, Tula, Tangale, and Ningi pagan Districts were responsible for a revival of the slave trade, and that the good crops of the year would make it difficult in any case for Kano traders to purchase pagan children to any great extent.

The Alkali's Court of Bauchi and the Native Administration have assisted actively in the suppression of the slave trade. Cases of redemption have been common during the year, amounting to a total of 39 cases. The slaves redeemed are mostly females, who are married by the redeemer. A certain

number of slaves are, however, redeemed by their relations, probably escaped slaves who have earned money as soldiers and carriers. The lot of domestic slaves has undoubtedly improved, and complaints of cruelty on the part of a master are rare.

BASSA.

Forty-nine slaves were freed in the province during the year.

NASSARAWA.

The total number of slaves freed in the Nassarawa Province during the year was six. Special attention has recently been paid to the slave traffic on the Benue River, and though there have been secret service agents watching, so far it has been impossible to intercept any gangs.

KONTAGORA.

As regards slavery, this Province is peculiar. The one constant complaint of the ruling class is that they have no slaves. The power of the Fulani was so utterly broken when Kontagora was taken by Government troops, that thousands of slaves took that opportunity to make their escape. They have since been gradually returning to the villages from which they were originally raided, and are settling down to farming, thus slowly increasing the population. The few slaves that remain to the upper classes seem contented as such. No complaint has ever been made asking for freedom on account of ill-treatment. They look upon their masters as the head of the family, and many raise families without ever wishing to change their condition, knowing that under Government rule they are safe from ill-treatment or disposal by barter.

ZARIA.

The number of slaves freed during the present year is 145. The majority of these received their freedom through ransom before the Native Courts, and complaints about runaway slaves have been fewer than formerly. The instances which have come to light of slave-dealing have been few, and those mainly among the pagan tribes some distance from Zaria. It is unquestionable that pagans find the selling of a slave, whether a criminal or so-called witch, or a child, as a convenient form of raising money to pay a debt or tax, and do not, therefore, appreciate in its entirety the law regarding slave-dealing.

ILORIN.

Five slaves were liberated in this Province during the year. The Resident informs me that it is very rare for slave cases to

appear before the court. Domestic slaves form a great part of the population, but they appear happy and contented, and have no desire to escape from bondage.

MURI.

In this Province the number of convictions and number of persons freed by order of the courts alike shows a steady decrease in the slave traffic, so prevalent in this Province up to 1904. It is the opinion of the Resident (Captain F. H. Ruxton) that the through river traffic in slaves has ceased, or almost so. As regards domestic slavery, the attitude of the Government on the subject is now well understood. The number of slaves freed during 1906 was 41.

NUPE.

The total number of slaves freed in the Nupe Provincial Court during the year was 31, as against 9 in 1905. On the whole there have been fewer complaints of the desertion of slaves from their masters than last year.

YOLA.

Fifty-four slaves were freed during the year in Yola Province; of this number 32 were freed by the Provincial Court, 3 demanded their freedom, and 15 were found on various roads by police patrols, the owners having decamped at the appearance of the police, and 4 were released by the deaths of their masters. Four hundred and forty-eight have been released altogether since the inauguration of this Province, and the Resident (Mr. G. N. Barclay) reports that slave-dealing is showing a marked decrease, and the Benue traffic from the Gongola and Bassem Districts, due to the famine, has now been almost suppressed owing to a Political Officer being available to supervise these districts.

KANO.

Although the traffic in slaves in the Kano Province is yearly on the decrease, still the fact cannot be disguised that it still exists, and, as stated by Dr. Cargill in 1905, this crime is specially prevalent along the Kano-Ningi frontier.

During the year under review, it was found to be an impossibility to take charge of this district permanently, but occasional visits were paid to it, and through co-operation with the Resident, Bauchi, some considerable amount of good was done in the matter of punishing offenders and restoring captives to their homes.

BORNU.

Since the inauguration of the Bornu Province in 1902, 1,282 slaves were freed, of which number 289 were freed during 1906. Most of them were settled at "Liberty Farm," the

name given to the settlement started for freed slaves too old or unsuitable for the Home, but not fit for being at large in a strange land with a strange language, and whom it is impossible to repatriate. 73 per cent. of the number freed during 1906 were importations from French and German territory. The actual trade in slaves in the Province is small, and is steadily decreasing. Very few seizures have been made during the past nine months in spite of all possible precautions, and the through trade must be considered satisfactorily small; however, while foreign markets are open in the north, and if famines recur, there will be traders ready to run the greatest risks.

In January, 1906, there were 145 inmates in the Bornu Freed Slaves Home, while on 31st December the number shown on the roll was 166. During the year 175 freed slaves were admitted to the Home, while 154 were struck off the list for various reasons. Whether this Home requires to be maintained in future depends entirely upon the number of "raw" slave children imported. The Resident (Mr. W. P. Hewby, C.M.G.) is in hopes that the number will not again increase, and that the present inmates of the Home can soon be drafted into "Liberty Farm."

The increased importation of raw slaves from foreign territory in 1905 necessitated the establishment of this village for the settlement of the adults, mostly pagan savages, from tribes in the basin of the Shari. The population on December 31st was 158 (the sexes being equal in number), some 40 of whom were either transferred or had fled from the Freed Slaves Home. This settlement, by matmaking, thatching, fuel collecting, and farming, is almost self-supporting, and will probably be entirely so by the end of 1907. During the year Government received a very welcome grant of £120 from the "Giles Trust Fund for the relief of Slavery," which amount has been applied to the Bornu Freed Slaves Home.

FREED SLAVES HOME.

Lucy Memorial.—The "Home" is to be opened at Ibi in the Muri Province as a Memorial to the late Mrs. Karl Kumm (née Lucy Guinness), wife of the General Secretary of the Sudan United Mission—who for 20 years laboured for the moral and mental enlightenment of the natives of Central Africa.

For this purpose a piece of land, of from 200 to 300 acres, has been granted at a nominal rent in the Djen District of the above-mentioned Province.

The Home is, for the present, in charge of Dr. Emlyn, to whom I have instructed the Residents of the Yola and Muri Provinces to render every assistance, and to hand over 12 freed-slave boys, between the ages of 5 and 10 years. These liberated

slave children will receive an agricultural and industrial training as well as religious instruction.

Dr. Karl Kumm informs me that in the autumn of 1907 one of the Sudan United Mission Missionaries, about to return on furlough, will, on his return to Nigeria bring his wife—who is a trained nurse—with him. It is suggested that two other fully-qualified nurses should accompany her, and be stationed in the "Freed Slaves Home." Much good should be the outcome of this institution. The eastern part of the Muri Province is inhabited by pagan tribes, who, especially in famine times, are much given to selling their children to Mohammedan traders.

ZUNGERU FREED SLAVE HOME.

The number in the Home at the beginning of the year was 202, and there have been 87 admissions, as against 159 in 1905, and 219 in 1904. The number who left the Home during the year is 109, leaving a total of 180 in the Home on 31st December, 1906.

The percentage of deaths, 5 per cent., compares very favourably with 27·3 per cent. in 1902, 15·4 per cent. in 1903, 22·8 per cent. in 1904, and 7·7 per cent. in 1905.

The education of the inmates of the Home has been carried out in the elementary stages alone possible. Laundry work still remains, with hospital training and the making up of all clothing for use in the institution, a source of education to the inmates.

IV.—LEGISLATION AND JUDICIAL.

PROVINCIAL COURTS.

The cause lists rendered by the Provincial Courts are now dealt with directly by the Chief Justice instead of being submitted and disposed of by the High Commissioner as heretofore. This almost monopolised the High Commissioner's time for one day each week, and with the increasing business of government it was found impossible to give the necessary attention to this important work; again it was work which the trained legal mind was best qualified to deal with.

ASSIZES.

In 1906 seven Assizes were held, four at Zungeru and three at Lokoja, when 27 charges were dealt with. A comparison between the returns of 1905 and those of 1906 is impossible, as owing to special instructions issued by the High Commissioner (Sir F. Lugard) to the Acting Chief Justice during the absence of the Chief Justice from the Protectorate, the

Supreme Court was practically closed, and the great majority of criminal charges were brought before a Commissioner of the Provincial Court.

CANTONMENT COURTS.

349 cases were dealt with in the Lokoja Cantonment Court, as compared with 303 in 1905. The total comprises 121 civil suits and 228 actions on the criminal side.

At Zungeru the total returns of the year (614) exceed those of 1905 by 42. They include 74 civil suits (as compared with 138 in 1905) and 540 criminal charges resulting in 474 convictions. Of the latter the great majority fall under the head of Cantonment offences.

With progressive efficiency on the part of the police, with the extension of Cantonment limits, and with the large addition to the floating population of Zungeru, due to the attraction offered to caravans by the Kaduna Bridge, it was only to be expected that there would be a marked increase in the prosecutions for offences against Cantonment Regulations.

REGISTRY.

Fourteen instruments affecting land were recorded in the Registry during the year, and two applications for Patents were registered.

The following Proclamations were enacted during the year:—

1. "The Native Courts Proclamation, 1906."
2. "The Native Revenue Proclamation, 1906."
3. "The Native Liquor Proclamation, 1906."
4. "The Caravans Proclamation, 1906."
5. "The Traders' Licence Proclamation, 1906 (Amendment)."
6. "The Forestry Proclamation, 1906."
7. "The Criminal Procedure Further Amendment Proclamation, 1906."
8. "The Dogs Proclamation, 1906."
9. "The Registration of Non-Natives (Repeal) Proclamation, 1906."
10. "The Cantonments (Amendment) Proclamation, 1906."
11. "The Lands (Amendment) Proclamation, 1906."
12. "The Uniform (Amendment) Proclamation, 1906."
13. "The Canoe Registration (Amendment) Proclamation, 1906."
14. "The Customs Management (Amendment) Proclamation, 1906."

15. "The Constabulary Proclamation, 1906."
16. "The Legalization of Acts under amended or repealed enactments Proclamation, 1906."
17. "The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Proclamation, 1906."
18. "The Criminal Code Amendment Proclamation, 1906."
19. "The Southern Nigeria Prisoners Proclamation, 1906."
20. "The Poisons Proclamation, 1906."
21. "The Supreme Court (Amendment) Proclamation, 1906."
22. "The West African Frontier Force (Northern Nigeria Regiment) (Amendment) Proclamation, 1906."
23. "The Provincial Courts (Amendment) Proclamation, 1906."
24. "The Registration of Medical Practitioners and Dentists Proclamation, 1906."
25. "The Fugitive Criminals Surrender Proclamation, 1906."
- No. 1 of 1907, "The Marriage Proclamation, 1907."
- No. 2 of 1907, "The Enforcement of Native Authority Proclamation, 1907."
- No. 3 of 1907, "The Judgment Extension Proclamation, 1907."
- No. 4 of 1907, "The Caravans (Repeal) Proclamation, 1907."
- No. 5 of 1907, "The Canoe Registration (Repeal) Proclamation, 1907."

Various regulations under the various Proclamations were made or repealed.

V.—NORTHERN NIGERIA REGIMENT (WEST AFRICAN FRONTIER FORCE).

Under this head little can be added to what has already appeared in the Annual Report for 1905. The Commandant, Col. A. W. S. Lowry Cole, C.B., D.S.O., reports as follows:—

"The interior economy of the Regiment has been, as far as I have been able to judge, well carried out, discipline has been generally satisfactory, while that of the Mounted Infantry has much improved."

The Acting Commandant, who has just returned to headquarters from tour, reports as follows:—

"I have accompanied the Inspector General of the West African Frontier Force, Brig.-General T. L. N. Morland, C.B.,

D.S.O., and have with him inspected headquarters and five companies of 1st N.N. Regiment, headquarters and five companies mounted infantry, and two sections of No. 2 battery artillery, N.N. Regiment. The Inspector-General was much pleased with all he saw. The mounted infantry have made enormous improvement since I last saw them three years ago. Their drill, field work, scouting, and riding, now leave very little to be desired. Interior economy, discipline, care of horses, lines, and arrangements for food for men and animals, were all very satisfactory."

The following table shows a few statistics for years 1904, 1905, and 1906:—

Year.	Trials by General Court Martial.	Trials by Civil Power.	Trials by Regimental Court Martial.	Serious punishment of trained soldiers.	Serious punish- ments of recruits.	Deaths.	Discharges.	Desertions.
1904	8	37	12	319	1,555	54	1,008	221
1905	—	29	6	441	831	67	598	178
1906	2	32	10	499		76	901	76

A decided improvement is noticeable in the means of communication between officers, European non-commissioned officers and men, and consequently work is very much more intelligently performed. Great progress has been made in signalling, and every unit has now a body of well-trained signallers, who do really useful, and at the same time accurate, work.

A number of men have been trained as leatherworkers, tailors, range takers, first aid to the wounded, farriers (though in this branch they do not acquire much efficiency), stripping arms, etc., but trained Europeans or non-natives are still required to conduct courses of instruction.

Fire discipline is good, and the system of passing orders is well carried out.

There has been a very marked decrease in the number of desertions. Up to October of the year under review there have been 76, as against 156 the year previous. On the other hand the number of cases of men absconding with their arms is about the same. All except six occurred from Dumjeri (Bornu Province) which adjoins a large tract of French territory which is not administered and is infested by bands of marauders, who periodically cross into our territory for marauding purposes. There is therefore a strong inducement to temporarily dissatisfied men to cross the frontier and join them with comparatively little danger of being arrested. With reference to the formation of a Reserve; a few discharged

men registered their names, but none came up for training last June. As a sum of £300 was available for the purpose, permission was asked for and granted to the Commandant to allow officers commanding training stations to offer a small bounty to any old soldiers living near their stations to enrol and come up for a course of training. This will take place in January, 1907, when it is hoped that when others see that there is something to be earned they will enrol and spontaneously present themselves for training. Flogging has been abolished excepting for the most serious offences.

The military operations in the neighbourhood of Sokoto, at Hadeija, and in the Munshi district were dealt with by Sir F. Lugard in his report for 1905-6. The other occasions when it was necessary to employ the W.A.F.F. were as follows:—

Angass.—This expedition left Bauchi on the 13th April and reached Goshin Dushi, the first town on the Angass country, on the 18th, and on the following day moved to Wussili, where some opposition was met with. Various other towns were visited on subsequent days, and on the 25th the town of Wokos was reached. This town is of considerable size, and has an estimated population of 20,000 inhabitants. It is situated on the rocky precipitous ground some 2,000 feet above the surrounding plain. Other Angass towns were visited, and the force having accomplished its object, returned to Bauchi on the 8th May. The country traversed was rugged and mountainous, and offered great natural difficulties to the operations.

Kwoll.—The force moved to the town of Kwoll on the 11th April and met with considerable opposition. The expedition subsequently visited the towns of Miango and Hoss, at both of which places opposition was met with. The forces returned to Bakuru on the 25th April, the tribes having tendered submission.

Darenge.—The force originally moved as escort to Major and Resident Sharpe, and was authorised to use force if necessary. The expedition reached Darenge on the 10th June and encountered serious opposition. Owing to the thick bush the enemy got to close quarters, and the Resident was severely wounded.

Isua.—Owing to the tribes in this district being well armed with Dane guns and ammunition, and the uncertainty as to how far the neighbouring tribes would combine, it was considered necessary to send a considerable force. The vicinity of the town was reached on the 30th May. On 1st June, all efforts to negotiate having failed, the forces moved against the town, which was cleared after some opposition. The troops remained in the vicinity till the 7th June, when, the tribe having submitted, it returned to Lokoja.

Piri.—Gumshi was reached early on the 9th. The Bassemas offered much opposition, and the country was rocky and diffi-

cult. Other towns in the Piri District were visited, but no hostilities occurred till the town of Libu was reached. Here much opposition was met with. The force returned to Yola on the 8th May.

Benue Patrols.—There were a series of raids on robber gangs along the River Benue by a small party of soldiers in a steam canoe.

Marghi.—This was a punitive expedition carried out against the small Chibbuk tribe of savages—akin to the Marghis and Kilbas,—and has stood out prominently this year, as our troops met the most determined lot of fighters in the strongest position in the Protectorate. Works of bygone writers show that they have defied Bornu armies for generations. For the past four years they have been left alone, as breaking them, without occupation following, would have done harm rather than good. Year after year these people have been the chief marauders on the Yola-Bornu road, and their stronghold, some 20 miles west of the road, has been a refuge for other truculent pagans who have from time to time been punished by Government. The increase of the Bornu Political Staff towards the end of the year rendered occupation of the Marghi Districts feasible, and at the end of November the Chibbuk rocks were attacked by a small force of 170 men under Lieutenants Chapman and Chaytor. The assault was continued for 11 days, and every occasion on which the troops attacked they suffered some losses. At the end of this time the hills were considered taken, our casualties being two officers slightly wounded, 10 rank and file killed, and 40 wounded; this was the end of the first phase of the operations. The bulk of the people had dispersed over the country, but many of them held their extraordinary network of impenetrable tunnels in the north-western part of the hills, and refused all submission. Before, during, and after these operations every effort was made to induce the Chibbuks to come in, but without success. The second phase of the operations began when Lieutenant Wolseley proceeded in mid-December with 80 men to systematically picket the hill. This officer is the only one, so far, who personally knows the wonderful internal formation of this hill. Lieutenant Wolseley, in an attempt to clear the tunnels, had one man killed and 12 wounded, and decided then that further attacks were futile and much too costly. By the most careful picketing and through the chance discovery of the natural water supply, deep down in the centre of the hill, this officer, now late in February, cleared the last man off the rocks. The hillsmen had unlimited food and sufficient water to last probably until the rains, and if, as with more combination might have happened, from 500 to 1,000 of these pagans had held to the tunnels and taken no risks, no force could have removed them. In most cases the arrows were shot at a range of from 5 to

20 yards through rocky apertures, from unseen foes, in passages to which daylight did not penetrate. After three months' operations this unique robbers' den was broken up and the tribe dispersed all over the country, mostly southward.

The following extract from the Resident's report may be of interest, viz.:—"Twice again before the Political Officer and the troops arrived at Chibbuk, the headmen were called upon to come in and submit, but no answer was returned, and the result was a series of the most stubborn fighting for 11 days, in which our troops met with such determined resistance as has seldom, if ever, been seen in the Protectorate; and I venture to state my deliberate opinion that no military operations have taken place during the last seven years in which the troops engaged had such genuine fighting to do under conditions extraordinarily difficult and nerve trying."

Bambu.—By a well thought-out night march the rebel town was seized, and its submission brought about with little loss of life.

Shuah.—This patrol was carried out without casualties or destruction of property; 90 miles were covered in 24 hours, and some of this through heavy swamp.

Amo-Rukuba.—This was a patrol undertaken to open the road from Keffi to the Naraguta tin mines, which were obstructed by these pagan tribes, who also interfered with the working of the mines. Opposition was met with at Amo and Zamagan. The Rukuba District was traversed and submission exacted without further resort to force.

Ziggam.—A force was sent to punish this pagan tribe for raiding the neighbouring Fulani tribes subject to our rule. The expedition effected its object.

Zeina.—This was undertaken to punish the Mumuye tribe for the murder of two policemen and other people; slight opposition was met with.

VI.—POPULATION.

In 1903 I had to bring to the notice of the Secretary of State how incorrect the estimated population was, and instead of putting it down at 20,000,000, that 10,000,000 would be much nearer the mark. Since then Sir Frederick Lugard had further to reduce this estimate, and from figures received from Residents he last year estimated the population at 8,782,183. This year I have had to reduce this figure still further to 7,164,751, which I should say is fairly approximate; it will, however, take some years to get correct figures, as where the country is still unassessed, mostly in pagan zones, the population is merely guessed at. See full details in Appendix VI.

VII.—EDUCATION.

The Church Missionary Society's School at Bida, under the Reverend F. Komlosy, has shown remarkable progress during the June quarter of the year. A really remarkable proficiency in ciphering is shown by the more advanced pupils, and progress in the English class is most marked and satisfactory.

Reporting on a visit to the Church Missionary Society's School on the invitation of the School Authorities, on the 10th of August, the Acting Resident, Nupe (Mr. A. M. Lafone), informs me that he was very much interested in the steady progress maintained in the school. Mr. Komlosy, by his energy and tactfulness, has succeeded in obtaining a representative from each of the "big houses" in Bida. The number of boys on the school books at 30th September numbered 29, while the English class numbered 6, all of whom were making excellent progress.

There is also a separate school for mission boys, these being for the most part boys received from the Freed Slaves Home at Zungeru, numbering 14 in all, and taught under the control of Mr. Gordon, a native of the West Indies. This school is in receipt of £40 per annum to assist in the object the Church Missionary Society have in view, namely, the education of these boys, and teaching them to become useful members of society and worthy of the position some of them may hold later on in the administration of the country.

All the boys attending this school will sooner or later come into landed property, and a special class, in which they would be taught the management of their future estates, would be very useful as well as of great benefit to this Protectorate in the future.

The boys in this school are doing splendidly, they are keen to learn, and their attendance is regular every afternoon. Their progress is very good, and on the occasion of my recent visit to Sokoto, a few of the boys read short paragraphs from an English newspaper.

The school is under the supervision of the Resident.

VIII.—POLICE AND CRIME AND PRISONS DEPARTMENT.

Major Bain, Chief Commissioner of Constabulary, reports the total strength of the constabulary on the 31st December was:—

European officers	...	...	...	30
Native constabulary	...	...	...	1,180

The constabulary were allocated to each of the 17 Provinces, and the Cantonments of Lokoja and Zungeru according to the relative police requirements of each.

Most of the detachments are very efficient, and have done capital work in dealing with the suppression of slave dealing and robbery of caravans, besides their usual police duties. The discipline and behaviour of the constabulary have been remarkably good, considering that they are recruited from Provinces where the natives traditionally regard plundering and abuse as adjuncts of power.

The total number of offenders, exclusive of those dealt with in the Native Courts, brought to justice during the year was 2,874, against 2,928 in the previous year. The most prevalent crimes are slave dealing, robbery with violence, stealing in the various forms known to the law, and extortion, generally accompanied by intimidation or the personation of a Government official. Three hundred and nineteen persons were tried for offences against the laws for suppression of slavery.

The following is a classified summary of the criminal cases tried:—

Crime.	Number of persons tried.
Murder	64
Manslaughter	28
Attempted Murder	8
Other offences against the person	311
Robbery with violence	90
Other offences against property... ..	679
Offences against the slavery laws	319
Miscellaneous offences	1,375

The Visiting Committee at Zungeru report that on their annual inspection of the Gaol at headquarters, everything was found to be in a most satisfactory condition. The prison books required to be kept in accordance with section 22 of the regulation to the Prisons Proclamation, 1902, were produced for inspection, and enquiry elicited the information that there was accommodation in the buildings for 300 prisoners, based on the cubic feet allowance of home prisons.

At date of inspection there were 177 prisoners, of whom five were women.

The general health of the prisoners was very good throughout the year, and shows an improvement on all former years.

The following table shows the number of deaths, admissions to hospital, &c., during the last three years:—

Year.	Daily average of prisoners.	Deaths.	Released on Medical grounds.	Admission to Hospital.
1904	177	92	No record.	685
1905	166	28	55	626
1906	186.5	26	21	476

A new system of rationing the prisoners has been introduced under which they now get, as far as possible, the food they are accustomed to eat in their own countries, and statistics to hand show that the majority have put on a little weight after one month's trial. The prisoners, being interrogated by the Committee, had no complaints to make, while one and all appeared to be well nourished.

At Lokoja, the prison was found to be in an equally satisfactory condition.

The number of new prisoners dealt with during the year in the courts was 2,874—a decrease of 54 on the previous year. There was a decrease of 13 in the number of sentences of death imposed; an increase of 83 in the sentences of imprisonment exceeding six months; a decrease of 72 in sentences not exceeding six months; and a decrease of 34 in sentences of fine or other minor punishment.

The health of the prisoners has been good. A prison farm was started at Lokoja, and has proved not only remunerative but has tended to improve the health of the convicts, besides providing a suitable form of useful labour for those unfit for heavier work. A similar farm has also been begun at Zungeru, where difficulty has sometimes been experienced in obtaining regular supplies of native food suited to the different races, and where greater variety in the forms of useful labour was desired for reformatory purposes, with convicts from all classes of natives and from all races in West Africa in the comparatively large prison there.

The native warders, &c., have further improved in efficiency; but their occupation is regarded by better class natives with disfavour, and there is difficulty in getting suitable men even for the highest paid appointments.

The prisoners were mainly employed in carrying bricks and stones and sand for public buildings or works, or in road making, &c. Instruction in bricklaying, shoemaking, tailoring, carpentry, and in other useful trades, was given in suitable cases, and a few of the convicts were employed in working at these trades. The whole of the prisoners' clothing, &c., was made up in the prisons.

The value (calculated at two-thirds of the market rate) of the prisoners' labour in connection with public works, &c., which would otherwise have had to be paid for in cash, was £3,878. If calculated at the ordinary market rates the value of the prisoners' useful labour would have exceeded the entire cost of the Prisons Department.

The following table shows the sentences imposed during the year:—

Number of persons sentenced to—

1. Death	25
2. Imprisonment exceeding two years ...	91

3. Imprisonment exceeding six months, but not exceeding two years ...	270
4. Imprisonment not exceeding six months (including cases of detention after conviction, in default of finding sureties, &c.)	715
5. Fine and imprisonment	88
6. Fine, deportation, or other minor punishment	1,176
B. Number of Persons—	
1. Executed	16
2. Imprisoned (including cases of com- muted or quashed death sentences &c.)	1,085
3. Imprisoned and also fined	88
4. Fined, or deported, or "bound over," &c.	1,175

IX.—CURRENCY.

The currency question is a most difficult one, owing chiefly to the want of a coin of smaller denominational value than a threepenny piece. The issue of coppers has also created a great suspicion of our silver coinage of the higher values, owing to the large number of counterfeit coins which have got into circulation in the shape of tinned pennies and half-pennies, and which are passed on the more ignorant natives, as one and two shilling pieces. In this way incalculable harm has been done to the ready circulation of our coinage. The new coinage has not so far been put into circulation, owing to objections and difficulties with regard to the inscription. It is earnestly to be hoped that the present year will see it introduced, as it is, for economic and other reasons, urgently required now that the cowrie is getting so scarce. The three-penny bit is still, with one or two exceptions in the Provinces where copper is accepted, our lowest form of coin.

The counterfeiters even go the length of milling the edges of the coppers to complete the deception, and to the native blacksmiths—of whom there are several in each village—the tinning is a very simple matter.

In Bornu the Maria Theresa dollar still continues to be the chief money in the Province, and is likely to remain so for some years to come. The mean value assigned to it is three shillings. Every effort has been made to circulate British currency, which passes generally, but it is largely carried away from the Province by traders. Progress is very slow, as it is a case of both trying to circulate sterling and also recognising the dollar as being the chief medium of payment that the

peasantry possess. Even now new dollars are met with, and it is impossible to enforce the Proclamation and prevent dollars passing to and fro over the frontier. Cowries in this Province average about 1,200 to one shilling.

X.—METEOROLOGICAL.

The rainfall during the year was 60·39 inches, or 19·08 inches more than in 1905, and the greatest recorded since observations have been taken. The wettest months were July and September, with 12·94 and 12·86 inches respectively. Rain fell during eight months of the year—April to November inclusive—beginning and ending later than in 1905. The highest fall recorded was 7·27 inches on the 28th July; this is the largest fall ever recorded in Northern Nigeria in one day.

ZUNGERU.

The maximum shade temperature was 105°, which was recorded on March 3rd; the minimum 55° on November 30th and December 30th. The highest mean temperature for the month was 89° for April, and the lowest 77° for August, the mean temperature for the year being 80°.

The mean relative humidity for the year was 63, the highest mean being 85 for July and August, and the lowest 41 for March—calculated from readings taken at 9 a.m. daily. The lowest actual relative humidity recorded was 19 from hygrometrical readings taken on the 10th and 12th of March.

LOKOJA.

The total rainfall was 51·83 inches for the year or 2·19 inches more than last year, the heaviest rainfall having occurred in September—11·95 inches. The maximum shade temperature was 104°, which was recorded on March 18th, and the minimum 55° on January 1st. The highest mean temperature for the month was 87° for March, and the lowest 78° for January—the mean temperature for the year being 81° F. The mean relative humidity for the year was 72—the highest means being 78 in August and September, and the lowest 57 for March.

GENERAL.

The highest shade temperature recorded in the Protectorate during the year was 120° at Dumjeri, in North Bornu, on April 26th, and the lowest 40° at Zaria, on January 9th. The highest mean temperature for the year was at Yola, 82°; and the lowest at Zaria, 74°. The greatest rainfall was that at Zaria, 61·05; and the lowest at Amar, 23·49. The maximum fall in one day was at Zungeru, on July 28th—7·27 inches.

The general direction of the wind throughout the Protectorate was from the south-west from June to November, and from the north-east during the remainder of the year. The harmattan lasted with slight intermissions from November to the end of April. The first tornadoes occurred in April, and the rainy season ended in November.

XI.—MEDICAL REPORT FOR 1906.

By DR. S. W. THOMPSTONE, C.M.G.,
Principal Medical Officer.

Estimated Population for the year 1906.

The average number of Europeans resident in the Protectorate during the year was 347, of whom 282 were officials and 65 non-officials—333 being males and 14 females.

The native population was estimated as being approximately 7,000,000.

Deaths.

There were seventeen deaths among the Europeans during the year (including three killed in action), ten being officials and seven non-officials.

Death-rate per 1,000.

The total crude European death-rate for the year, calculated on the average resident population, was 48·99. The death-rate of non-officials was, as in former years, very much higher than that of officials, there having been 10 deaths amongst 282 officials, as against 7 amongst 65 non-officials, giving an official death-rate of 35·46 per thousand, as against a non-official one of 107·69 per thousand.

These death-rates are, as stated above, "crude" death-rates; they are not corrected for age and sex distribution, and are not comparable with those of communities consisting of persons of all ages and both sexes in the normal proportion.

Comparison with previous years.

There has been an increase in the average resident European population, as compared with 1905, of 5, last year's average population having been estimated at 342. The death-rate was higher by 19·76 per thousand, and the invaliding rate by 15·23 per thousand—the latter rate being 158·50 per thousand for the year 1906, as against 143·27 for 1905. The figures, however, dealt with, are so small that conclusions based on comparisons of one year with another are largely fallacious. Taking the average of the six previous years (1900-5), the death-rate shows an increase of 3·8 per thousand, and the invaliding rate of 7·9 per 1,000.

Prevalence of sickness in the different seasons of the year, and general character as to mildness or severity of the diseases prevailing.

The year has been exceptional in the unusual seasonal incidence of sickness—January, which as a rule is one of the most healthy months of the year, having the greatest number of admissions, while September, generally the worst month, showed the fewest. The small number of cases of illness in September is probably to be accounted for by the unusually heavy rains, all watercourses and shallow pools which would have been possible breeding places for mosquitoes having been kept thoroughly flushed out, consequently reducing the number of cases of malaria which generally occur at this time of the year.

The general character of the diseases prevailing showed little or no change, with the exception of cerebro-spinal fever, the cases of this disease met with having been much fewer in number and milder in type.

The case mortality of blackwater fever was the same as last year—20 per cent.—which was 1·6 per cent. below the average case mortality from this disease during the past eight years. The actual number of admissions was 25 with 5 deaths, last year having 20 cases with 4 deaths.

Relative mortality in the different seasons.

The greatest number of deaths among Europeans occurred during February, August, and September, and there were no deaths in January, May, or June; during the rest of the year the mortality was evenly distributed through the months.

The native death-rate, as in former years, was highest during the first three months of the year, in the dry season.

Particular diseases that have recurred during the year.

The greatest amount of sickness during the year among Europeans has been due, as in former years, to malaria. The total number of admissions from this disease (excluding blackwater fever for the sake of convenience) were 370, compared with 445 admissions during last year, and 515 the year before—a progressive diminution in the number of cases met with.

There were twenty-five cases of blackwater fever and 22 cases of dysentery during the year, as against 20 and 34 in 1905.

Among the natives treated, there were 1,161 cases of malaria, 364 of dysentery, and 29 of cerebro-spinal fever—this latter disease having been much less prevalent than last year.

General sanitary condition of the Protectorate.

The European stations are generally in as good a sanitary condition as circumstances will allow; better quarters are being provided, and the water supplies have been improved where possible.

Many cases of illness which are returned as occurring at the various stations are not acquired in the stations themselves, but in the bush while travelling from place to place—developing only after the individual has reached his destination. So far as possible, permanent rest houses are being established along the main roads, built outside and at some distance from native towns, where travellers can camp in comparative safety. It is, however, obviously impossible to always insure a sanitary camping ground, and many cases of sickness arise from the hardships necessarily undergone in a new country under such conditions, though all practical means for the eradication of malaria are taken as part of the routine sanitary work.

The condition of the native towns in the immediate vicinity of European stations shows signs of improvement, but native customs are difficult to change, and much remains to be done.

*Sanitary condition of the different stations with reference to water supply, drainage, etc.**Zungeru.*

The average resident European population during the year was 62·8—58·6 officials and 4·2 non-officials. The sanitary condition of the cantonment is excellent, the drainage being effective, and the water supply good. The drinking water supplied by the condenser on the bank of the Dago is sufficient in amount and excellent in quality. Refuse is carried away and burnt as far as possible, and the conservancy is on the dry-earth system.

The general health of the population has been good, the number of Europeans admitted to hospital during the year having been 65, with 1 death, as compared with 92 admissions, with 2 deaths, in 1905, and 123 admissions, with 4 deaths, in 1904, showing a progressive diminution in both the admission and death-rates.

Gaol.—The sanitary condition is good, and the general health of the prisoners has improved. The cells are kept clean and the yard dry and well swept. The water supply is obtained from the Dago and Kaduna rivers, and is unlimited in amount and of good quality. Refuse is burnt, and the pail system is in use for the removal of excreta. A large new latrine has been completed during the year, which has effected a considerable improvement. The cubic air space available is 244 cubic feet per prisoner, but as the openings in the cells are large and the doors grated, there is no difficulty with the ventilation.

The average number of prisoners was 185, and the quality of the diet good.

Freed Slaves' Home.—Both the compound and the interior of the dormitories are kept clean and in good sanitary condition.

The average number of inmates during the year was 186·81, and their general health was satisfactory.

Ventilation is free and sufficient, and the water supply, which is obtained from the Dago and Kaduna rivers, is good and ample.

The prevalent diseases are stomatitis and intestinal parasites.

Lokoja.

The average resident European population was 76·8, 59·2 being officials and 17·6 non-officials.

The sanitary condition of the cantonment is satisfactory, the drainage being good, and the European compounds and native lines well-kept and clean. The drinking water from the condenser has been of excellent quality and of sufficient amount.

The general health of the Europeans has been fairly good. There were 136 admissions to the European hospital during the year, with 6 deaths—these include cases brought in from out-stations.

Gaol.—The average number of prisoners during the year was 88·25; their general health was good—the prevalent diseases being digestive and parasitic. Many are brought in in a very debilitated condition, and the general standard of physique is much lower than that of the outside population. The gaol is kept clean, the water supply is good, and the diet sufficient and of good quality.

Kano.

The average resident European population during the year was 22·2—20 officials and 2·2 non-officials. The sick list shows 110 admissions and 2 deaths, 76 of the admissions being for malaria and 3 for blackwater fever, one of the deaths being due to malaria and one to blackwater fever. The general health of the Europeans has not been good. So far the experimental site at Geza has not proved to be much, if any, better, than the old one at Nassarawa. The question of choosing a healthy site anywhere in the neighbourhood of Kano is a most difficult one; the whole country round has been examined, and apparently it is impossible to find a place without disadvantages from a sanitary point of view within a reasonable distance of the town.

Drainage operations are being carried on, and new permanent houses put up, and it is hoped that the health of the

station will be improved. The water supply is good and the quantity ample. A condenser has been erected and is working well.

Vaccinations performed during the year, and condition of the population in respect of protection from small-pox.

There were 2,447 successful vaccinations performed during the year, an increase over last year of 1,049, all stations being now supplied with small consignments of lymph by each mail. It has been found by experience that the only method by which it can be procured in a fairly active condition is to provide for a small constant fresh supply, which is used immediately on its arrival, the temperature to which it is exposed on its way up country on carriers' heads causing such rapid deterioration that very little of that which is sent out in the hot months is of any use by the time it reaches the more distant stations. All Government employes, native soldiers, and constabulary, who have not had small-pox, have now been vaccinated as far as possible, and considerable numbers of the inhabitants of the native towns in the vicinity of European stations.

General health during the year.

The general health of the European community has been fairly good; the death-rate was higher than in 1905, but the number of cases on the sick list was considerably lower.

The health of the native population was good; there were no serious epidemics of cerebro-spinal fever or small-pox, such as occurred last year—only the usual number of sporadic cases of both diseases being seen. The total number treated at the Government hospitals and dispensaries during the year was 16,340; of these 1,161 were cases of malarial fever.

There were two cases of blackwater fever in natives, and three of beri-beri.

Three cases of sleeping sickness were treated among the native troops, and it has been discovered that trypanosomiasis is fairly common in certain parts of the Protectorate, several cases having been diagnosed by gland puncture—the banks of the Benue and the Bassa Province being the parts of the country where most of the cases have been found. Unfortunately the particular district from which it is reported is not yet opened up, and it is only possible to pursue investigations in the immediate vicinity of the station. From enquiries made, it would appear, however, that sleeping sickness is well known to the natives, and has apparently always existed, without spreading to any considerable extent, but as the *glossina palpalis* has been found to be widely distributed along the Niger Valley, there is danger of it extending at any time. A native hospital, established by a native for the treatment of this disease by native remedies, has been discovered near Loko,

and several cures are reported to have been effected. This is now being investigated with a view to finding out if the cases under treatment are sleeping sickness, if cures are made, and the methods used. So far trypanosomes have been found in three out of nine cases in the hospital, but no symptoms of sleeping sickness were present. Incision of the cervical glands is the method of treatment adopted, with the local application of native remedies. The investigation is still proceeding, and a report will be sent in separately when it is concluded.

Venereal diseases are very prevalent in the Northern Provinces—gonorrhœa is commoner near the coast, but syphilis is met with much more frequently in Bornu and the Provinces along the Northern border. There were 409 cases of this disease treated during the year amongst native soldiers and Government employés.

The native quarter in Zungeru was originally laid out to accommodate a much smaller number of inhabitants, and is now overcrowded. Steps should be taken to extend it and cut a wide road through the middle of the present town, with a view to opening it up and preventing the spread of epidemic disease; the question is now under consideration.

One case of Malta fever was diagnosed in a European during the year—the first recorded in the Protectorate.

The courses of lectures on elementary hygiene which were started in Zungeru and Lokoja, were continued this year.

XII.—CANTONMENTS

ZUNGERU.

Assessment.

The most important work of the year under review has been the assessment of the Cantonment Rate under the Cantonment Proclamation, 1904. This Proclamation was not brought into operation as regards the assessment and collection of the new rate until the beginning of 1906. To thoroughly carry out this scheme necessitated the breaking up of the native town into "blocks" and the mapping of each block to a scale showing every house and plot, each of which received a consecutive number in the assessment register.

Roads.

The total mileage of roadways, exclusive of those at present under construction, is $6\frac{3}{4}$ miles. The excessive rainfall did very great damage to many of the roads, which necessitated the laying down of 600 tons of gravel to repair them again.

Native Quarters.

In the portion of Cantonments assessed there are now 435 houses, as against 393 in 1905. These quarters have been

kept in a sanitary condition, and there has been no epidemic of any serious nature, the usual instances of infectious diseases being promptly dealt with by removal to the segregation camp. Last year's compulsory erection of brick houses, though at first much objected to, is now appreciated by all the more permanent residents.

Conservancy.

Conservancy work has been carried on most satisfactorily. It is an ever-increasing item with regard to public latrines, for which no charge is made.

Church Service.

Service has been regularly conducted by the Cantonment Magistrate, and at intervals by visiting clergy of the Church Missionary Society from Bida and Kuta.

Cantonment Courts.

At Zungeru the total returns for the year (614) exceed those of 1905 by 42. They include 74 civil suits (as compared with 138 in 1905) and 540 criminal charges, resulting in 474 convictions. Of the latter the great majority fall under the head of Cantonment offences.

LOKOJA.

Judicial.

There were 121 civil and 228 criminal cases tried in the Cantonment Court during the year. Compared with 1905 the figures are as follows:—

Cases.	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Civil	121	144	—	23
Criminal	228	159	69	—

giving a total increase of 46.

The gravelling of all roads with fine gravel has been continued, and all existing roads have been kept clean throughout the year.

Recreation Ground.

The laying out of this ground is now complete, though it will require much labour expended on it for many years to come.

A small racecourse has been laid out and railed at private expense. A six-hole golf course, with the putting greens duly levelled and rolled and mown, has been laid out. The western end of the recreation ground has been laid out as a garden and plantation.

A new polo ground in rear of Nos. 2 and 3 bungalows is being made.

Cantonment Work.

There are now $5\frac{3}{4}$ miles of road in the cantonment, of which over four miles are gravelled and the rest earth; the whole was kept clean and in good condition during the year.

Planting.

Hedging has been continued round the recreation ground and compounds, and many trees have been planted along both sides of the roads—cotton-silk, mango, acacia, and various varieties of shade trees.

Labour.

During the year carts were regularly used in the work of the cantonment, and proved most successful and economical.

A mowing machine was also got during the year, and has proved a great saving of labour in keeping the recreation ground in order.

On October 20th the Bishop of the diocese consecrated the Cemetery on the Camp Road, and on Sunday, October 22nd, held an opening service in the Cantonment Church. Fortnightly services have been held since by the Church Missionary Society.

XIII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The erection of civil and military buildings has proceeded apace, but much building still requires to be done before all the officials and military officers are comfortably housed in the Provinces, and much still requires to be done with regard to the housing of the soldiers and police. This department is well organised and is quite able to carry out all public works for which funds are likely to be granted, for some years to come.

RAILWAY.

The only line in the Protectorate runs from Barijuko, on the Kaduna, to Zungeru, and is 22 miles long.

During the year, exclusive of ballast and road metal, 355 trucks of goods and material were hauled, inclusive of 38 trucks of Niger Company's materials, and 18,726 passengers were carried. All Government materials, stores, and passengers, as well as provisions for the Niger Company's store, are carried free. The receipts from passenger traffic were £918 10s. 6d., an increase of £137 8s. 3d. on receipts from this source during 1905.

The total receipts for the year were £1,141 1s. 6*d.*, as compared with £1,038 0s. 9*d.* during 1905, an increase of £103 0s. 9*d.* From 70 to 80 trucks per mensem of ballast for railway, road metal for cantonment roads, fuel for boilers, &c., were brought into Zungeru, a total of nearly 900 trucks.

The cost of maintenance was £1,697, as against £2,200 last year.

ROADS.

Zungeru to Zaria: this is the only road in the Protectorate, not including many miles of capital road in cantonments, which has been partially ballasted or metalled. After the rains the whole road was re-cleared and all damage done repaired, and it was ready for cart transport by November, 1906. The Residents have given much attention to the clearing, widening, and rough bridging of the roads in the various Provinces, which has conduced greatly to the comforts of travel and facilities to trade, as before this was done it was with great difficulty that goods could be conveyed along the narrow tracks.

BRIDGES.

The steel bridge over the Kaduna has at last been completed and opened to traffic in September, 1906. Rails were laid and trains run to the transport camp on the right bank of the Kaduna, thus effecting a great saving of time in the handling of materials for transport to the Northern Provinces. The bridge is very largely used by the natives and trading caravans.

Steel bridges were erected over the Koriga and Little Koriga Rivers on the Zaria Road, the former having a length of 118 feet with fourteen spans, and the latter 80 feet with six spans.

XIV.—MARINE.

The following additions were asked for under 1906-7 estimates:—a new vessel of the Sarota-Empire-Corona type, about 140 feet by 27 feet, estimated to cost about £14,120, and six steel poling canoes.

As the "Corona," the High Commissioner's yacht, was never fully employed, this vessel was placed on the regular mail and passenger service, and the new vessel on the estimates was cancelled. A vessel of the Karonga type, but somewhat more powerful, and of greater depth of side, to be used for the towage of lighters, was asked for and sanctioned, and is now being built. The estimated and sanctioned expenditure to cover the cost of the six steel canoes was divided between two poling canoes and one steel paraffin motor canoe.

Employment of Flotilla.

All vessels have been fully employed during the year. A little more time has been available for necessary repairs than heretofore, in consequence of the putting of the "Corona" on the regular mail service.

A weekly mail service has been maintained between Burutu and Lokoja and Barijuko (during the time the Kaduna is open to steam navigation) for Zungeru. The amount of cargo and passengers carried during the year has been about the same as last, but traders have considerably increased. Besides the ordinary work connected with the regular mail and passenger service, a heavy strain was put on the Marine Department owing to the Munshi outbreak in January, 1906, and the Sokoto rising in February, when the vessels were exceptionally busy, conveying troops from Burutu to Lokoja and Baro.

Gongola Transport.

At the beginning of the year there remained at Numan, on the River Benue, some 400 tons of building material, telegraph poles and bases, for Bauchi and Bornu, to be transported up the Gongola River for distribution at the various depôts for which it was intended, and this was successfully done.

Rise and Fall of River.

The rise this year (1906) has been exceptionally good, and when at its lowest in May, it maintained a depth of about 3 feet at the shallow crossings, thus enabling the largest stern wheelers to keep running between Lokoja and Burutu. During the lowest rivers of the years 1903, 1904, and 1905, the smaller stern wheelers and steam canoes could only be utilised between Lokoja and Burutu. The lowest water was on May 28th, the highest on October 21st, rising 2 feet above 1905, and 9 feet about 1902, and within 1' 6" below the highest recorded, in 1901.

Between Lokoja and Mureji the river did not fall as low as in the years 1902, 1903, 1904, and 1905, and the small stern wheelers of the Kampala type kept up the service continually.

Workshops.

The workshops have been fully employed during the year, and at times have been working at great pressure. No new machines have been added during the year.

Revenue.

The revenue from traders, &c., for 1906, shows considerable increase, reaching a total of £5,640 for the whole year. This

amount includes river freight, passages, agency fees, condensed water, landing and discharging fees, and storage charges. The revenue for recent years was:—

	Year.	Amount.
		£
1903		905
1904		2,113
1905		2,790
1906		5,640

Condenser.

The condenser has worked very satisfactorily during the whole year, producing on an average 450 gallons daily, or about 160,000 gallons during the year, of pure drinking water. The cost of running the condenser was £305 18s., inclusive of repairs, &c.

The cost works out at a fraction over $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per gallon, and the water is sold in Lokoja at $1d.$ per gallon. The market value of condensed water comes to £666.

Beacons have been erected on many of the dangerous rocks at Lokoja, and the buoying of the river amongst the rocky channels has been carefully attended to.

Flotilla.

The flotilla consists of the following vessels:—

Name and Description of Vessel.	Speed.	Cargo Capacity.	Passengers.
	Knots.	Tons.	
Corona, Twin screw... ..	10	150	13
Sarota, Stern wheel	10	150	8
Empire "	8	100	8
Kapelli "	10	40	7
Kampala "	9	10	4
Karonga "	9	10	4
White Swan "	6	5	2
Black Swan "	6	5	2
Snipe "	6·3	5	2
Stork "	6·3	5	2
Pelican "	6·3	5	2
Zaria, Screw Launch	8	—	2
No. 1, Lighter	—	70	—
No. 2, Lighter	—	45	—
No. 3, Lighter	—	45	—
No. 4, Lighter and pontoon	—	90	—
Africa, Hulk... ..	—	—	—
Nigretia, Hulk	—	—	—
Albatross, Poling canoe, fitted roof	—	—	—

Flotilla—cont.

Name and Description of Vessel.	Speed.	Cargo Capacity.	Passengers.
	Knots.	Tons.	
Bittern Poling canoe, fitted roof ...	—	—	—
Cormorant " " " ...	—	—	—
Diver " " " ...	—	—	—
Egret " " " ...	—	—	—
Flamingo, Poling canoe, fitted as pontoon	—	—	—
Gull, Poling canoe, used as barge for towing.	—	—	—
Hawk, Poling canoe, fitted roof ...	—	—	—
Ibis " " " ...	—	—	—
Jackdaw " " " ...	—	—	—
Kingfisher " " " ...	—	—	—
Lapwing " " " ...	—	—	—
Mallard " " " ...	—	—	—
Noddy " " " ...	—	—	—
Osprey " " " ...	—	—	—
Lake Chad boat, building	—	—	—

The following vessels are building in England:—

One Kerosene Motor Canoe 35' by 6'.

One Karonga type 75' by 18'.

One Ferry Pontoon for Muraji.

XV.—LAND TRANSPORT.

Marked progress has been made in this department, and very great credit is due to Mr. A. L. Ross, the Chief Transport Officer, for his energetic and able management.

During the first part of the year, work was greatly hampered by a severe epidemic of pleuro-pneumonia. During the latter portion of the year cart-convoys were not practicable until the 18th December, on account of the abnormal rains, which did considerable damage to the roads. The re-organisation of this department did not take place until about the end of 1904, and it was not until 1906 that sufficient staff and material was placed at the disposal of the Chief Transport Officer to allow of really effective work being done.

Increased staff has enabled marked advancement during the year under review, though the main results will not be apparent until the following year.

As an instance of this, during January and February, 1907, the following convoys were despatched from Zungeru:—

Month.				Carts.	Waggons	Bullocks.	Loads.
January	...	...	...	68	2	174	865
February	...	...	...	19	1	52	237
"	...	...	...	8	—	20	92
"	...	...	...	20	—	50	240
"	...	...	...	18	—	44	179
Total	...	...	...	133	3	340	1,613

The introduction of animal transport is gradually, if not rapidly, taking the place of carriers, as each year shows a reduction on the amount expended on carriers,* but until suitably bridged and metalled roads are constructed it will be an impossibility wholly to substitute animal transport, especially carts, during the rains. In the dry season both cart and pack transport are in use throughout the road from Zungeru to Kano, and also in the Bornu Province. Pack transport has been worked with good results in the Sokoto and Kano Provinces, while pack camels have taken the place of pack bullocks at Zaria and Kano with excellent results.

PURCHASE OF ANIMALS.

The principal supply districts are confined to Katsena, Kano and Bornu, and the bullocks obtained from these districts are of a stamp well suited for transport work. No matter how careful a selection is made in purchasing up country, many animals fail on the journey down. It is anticipated that during the next caravan season, it will be possible to make larger purchases of tested animals at Zungeru, from caravans, now that a market has been established. Camels can be purchased to a limited extent at Katsena and Kano. 120 were procured, and it is anticipated that now our requirements are known, a large supply will be forthcoming next year. Reported extensive purchases by the French on their side of the boundary has caused the average price per camel to rise from £4 10s. to £5 10s., but so far, in most of the southern provinces, the price has been practically prohibitive.

ANIMALS AND EPIZOOTIC DISEASES.

The general health has been far from good, the casualties being heavy, but not exceeding anticipations. A decided improvement cannot be expected until such time as there is an adequate and qualified purchasing staff available. Pleuro-

* Transport by carts to Zaria costs per ton mile 1s. 9d., while carriers cost 2s. 9d.

pneumonia was prevalent throughout the country during the most part of the year, and is undoubtedly the most difficult disease to contend with in this country. It appears to be endemic in the Zaria District, and cattle passing through that province are liable to be affected. A large percentage of the affected animals succumb, and the cattle which recover are absolutely unfit for transport work; treatment is therefore out of the question. The one way to prevent the spread of this disease from one animal to another is to segregate the affected animals, and as "preventive inoculation" would mean the inoculation of every animal owned by natives, it is out of the question at present. The only other course open is to destroy every authenticated case, and have the carcase burnt. Still another disease is Ixodic Anæmia—Tick fever—Texas fever. This is a very common disease in this country, and it is caused by what is called the "Cusca," equivalent to the "Ixodes Eicinus." The fever originating from this cause is of a low form, and general anæmia is always present. The disease is easily prevented by removing the "ticks" as soon as they are noticed. These are found in the grass, and after the animals have been grazing they should be carefully examined and all the "ticks" removed. This precaution minimises considerably the losses from this cause.

Treatment is practically useless, as the animals take a long time before they are in a fit condition for transport purposes.

There are also a few poisonous grasses and shrubs which occasionally cause deaths among the cattle. A collection of these grasses is being made, and a report will be made on them as soon as possible.

Mange is a frequent source of debility among animals in this country. It is not, however, a very serious form, and is easily amenable to treatment.

CARTS AND WAGGONS.

It is generally recognised that the climate of this country is most injurious to wheeled vehicles, and that to last they must be specially constructed and of the best materials and workmanship. Out of 100 carts made in England, 80 had, after eighteen months' service in Northern Nigeria, to be practically rebuilt, and of the balance 12 were condemned as unfit for further use.

INDIAN ARMY TRANSPORT CART.

The cart at present chiefly in use is the Indian Army transport cart. Two-wheeled carts are perhaps admirable in many ways, and though they have done useful work, still it is the opinion of the Chief Transport Officer that they are too severe on the animals, and the draught is heavy in comparison with four-wheeled carts.

FOUR-WHEELED WAGGONS.

In 1905 a four-wheeled waggon was designed by Mr. Ross, combining the best features of the ordinary American farmer's waggon (or the English timber-truck) and the Indian Army transport cart. By means of the pole connecting the two carriages, the waggon can either be lengthened or shortened, and is suitable for carrying stores and material of all kinds and dimensions within reason. With the same draught this cart will carry twice the load of a two-wheeled cart with the great advantage of not being severe on the animals.

PACK SADDLES.

This has so far been a most difficult question. The native bullock saddle, from a practical and economical point of view, is unsuitable, and the Indian soonkah saddle imported in April, 1906, is no better, but I understand the Chief Transport Officer is at last in the hope of getting a saddle to suit the purposes for which it is required; exhaustive experiments will be made with this saddle, which, in the opinion of the officer referred to, could be made in England at a reasonable price.

BASE DEPOTS, ZUNGERU.

At this dépôt animals' standings were made, sheltered sick lines erected and workshops, grain stores (four of these native granaries), pharmacy store, and store shed were put up, all being enclosed by a stone wall, and, with the exception of the store shed and pharmacy, the work has entirely been carried out by the Transport Staff and attendants. In addition, the following buildings were erected by the Public Works Department outside the lines:—

A bungalow (for the officer in charge of depot), stone quarters for the Indian attendants, an office and quarters for the clerks.

A large number of trees have been planted, which will in time afford shelter to the animals.

A depot has also been erected at Zaria and Kano.

GRAIN DEPOTS.

Grain depots in charge of storekeepers have been established with excellent results at Ringa and Ruku on the Zungeru-Zaria Road. In addition to supplying food for natives in Government employ, and grain for transport animals, they provide fresh food for Europeans.

MULE BREEDING.

This experiment, which was commenced at Kano towards the end of 1905, under the supervision of a veterinary officer, is making favourable progress.

The following table shows the number of animals purchased, their cost and upkeep, and results to December, 1906:—

	No. purchased.	Casualties.	Remaining 31st Dec.	Amount.	Stock thrown, to 31st Dec., 1906.	Mares in foal, 31st Dec., 1906.
				£ s. d.		
Jack donkeys (local)	3	1	2	4 18 0	1 mule	—
Jack donkeys (imported).	3	2	1	96 0 0	4 pony foals.	—
Mares (local) ...	27	2	25	112 0 0	—	23
Attendants and upkeep to 31st Dec., 1906.	—	—	—	52 15 9	—	—
Total ...	33	5	28	265 3 9	5	23

The four pony foals were thrown by mares in foal at time of purchase.

French experiments prove that the local jacks are preferable to imported animals, as the stock produced by them, though small, is more wiry and stands the climate better.

ROADS.

The following cart roads have been completed to end of 1906:—

Roads.	Miles.
(a) Zunguru-Zaria	164
(b) Zaria-Kano	86
(c) Loko-Keffi	73
(d) Bida-Dakmon	8 (of 12)
(e) Bida-Barijuko	43
Total	374

The Chief Transport Officer informs me that there are certain roads in Bornu passable for carts in the dry season, but he is uncertain as to the mileage. The Loko-Keffi road was completed shortly after the end of the year. Mr. Ross brings to my notice the splendid work done by his European staff, and the success which has attended the scheme whereby Indian artificers and bullock drivers have been brought into the Protectorate.

XVI.—MISSIONS.

The Church Missionary Society has two stations in the Hausa and Gwari country: one at Zaria and one started last year in Kuta.

The chief work of the Zaria station is medical. As yet there is not a large number of patients, as there is still a good deal of distrust and suspicion. A great many successful cases were dealt with, and some good operations performed. There were in all about 1,600 visits beside a great many patients visited in their own homes.

A school was started two years ago, but with the exception of the children brought up from the Freed Slaves Home (of whom they have twelve), not many scholars attended regularly. Some will come for a few days and then go away again. In spite of this, however, many have learnt to read in Roman characters, and there are altogether quite thirty people now intelligently reading portions of the Scriptures in Roman characters.

A few women have also attended school irregularly, and three or four have learnt to read quite well.

The station at Kuta is a new work, only started in February, 1906, and presents, therefore, the features of a new work: getting to know the people, studying their language, giving medicine to the sick, a small school, and regular visits and Sunday services.

The staff comprises—Zaria: Secretary of the whole Mission, Dr. Miller; Dr. Druett and Mrs. Druett; Mr. Thompson (W. Indian).

Kuta: Revs. Lacy and Low.

Canadian Industrial Mission.—This Society has now amalgamated with the Sudan United Mission, and adopted the latter name.

Medical work has been carried on, and over a thousand patients treated at Wushishi and Pateji. Educational work has also been carried on to a limited extent. At Pateji, about twelve scholars attended school, but at Wushishi only the servants attached to the Mission attend the classes.

Mennonite Brethren in Christ.—This Mission station was opened at Shonga, in the Ilorin Province, a year ago. It is in charge of Mr. A. W. Banfield, who is accompanied by his wife and two other European lady missionaries. A school for the education of natives has been opened for some months, but has not been taken advantage of to any great extent. Language study is the regular daily routine. At present the four Gospels are being translated into Nupe, and a vocabulary of ten thousand words is being prepared for publication.

Sudan United Mission.—This Mission operates in the Pagan Districts of the Muri and Bauchi Provinces, and is in charge of Dr. Emlyn.

XVII.—MINERALS.

The Principal Surveyor, Dr. Falconer, returned to Lokoja from England in November, and proceeded to Southern Kabba to investigate the occurrences of iron ore previously found there.

In December he was joined by the Assistant Surveyor, and the party proceeded to Awe to commence boring operations on the salt-fields. There was considerable delay in the transport of the machinery, but by the middle of January boring was started on the selected site and was continued, in the charge of the Assistant Surveyor, until the end of April, when a depth of 50 feet had been reached in spite of various mishaps to the boring apparatus. No rock salt was proved at this depth, but a copious supply of brine of the same strength as issues from the springs round the town was found to be held under pressure in a band of sandstones underlying the shales, which outcrop in the neighbourhood of the town.

While this work was in progress the Principal Surveyor continued the investigation of the monazite sand deposits in Northern Kabba. A vein of very pure limestone was located between Wa and Jakura.

The Angass country in Bauchi Province was visited by the Principal Surveyor towards the end of the season, in order that the reported occurrence of tinstone there might be investigated. Though the report proved to be inaccurate and no tinstone was found in that particular district, much useful information was obtained regarding the distribution of this mineral in Northern Nassarawa and Western Bauchi.

Samples of all the minerals collected during the year by the Officers of the Survey have been despatched to the Imperial Institute for investigation.

TIN.

The following report on the tin-mining industry, by Mr. James Scott, C.E., may be of interest:—

The Position of the Mining Area.

The Bauchi Tin Field is situated on the western boundary of the Province of Bauchi, in the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria, and extends into the Province of Zaria.

The presence of tin in this district has evidently been known to the natives for a considerable time, and they have smelted it on a small scale for many years.

This was first discovered by Mr. Wallace when he opened up the Benue to trade for the Royal Niger Company in 1885, and tin bought from the natives has been exported in small quantities ever since.

After the taking over of the Protectorate by the Imperial Government on 1st January, 1900, the Niger Company despatched an expedition to ascertain the source of the tin, and the first favourable report was made by Mr. Nicolous in 1902.

In September, 1903, Mr. Laws, the present Chief Mining Engineer of the Niger Company, left England with two assistants, and prospected the ground covered by the exclusive licences then held.

In February, 1906, Mr. Laws established the present camp, and by the end of April all machinery and plant had been erected and smelting started.

Exclusive Prospecting Licences and Mining Leases.

The Exclusive Licences to prospect on the Bauchi Tin Field in force on 31st December, 1906, were eight in number, embracing an area of 228 square miles. Two mining leases (of the Naraguta and Jos mining areas) were also held by the Niger Company, the areas of which were four square miles respectively.

The Staff.

At the time of my visits in December, 1906, and January, 1907, the European staff consisted of three persons, two mining engineers and one mine foreman.

They had shortly before lost one of the assistant engineers by death, and a second foreman had been detailed as transport rider to bring specie to the mines.

Two coloured engineers were employed to carry on the work of smelting, also a number of carpenters, smiths, fitters, masons, bricklayers, sawyers, &c., brought from the coast. The numbers employed varied with the seasons, but 100 pagan labourers were constantly employed cutting and carrying wood, clearing bush; and including the labourers employed in getting and sluicing the gravel, and the independent workers who wash tin in the river bed (only in the mining area) and sell it to the Company, the average number employed does not exceed 250 persons.

Buildings and Works.

The European quarters consist of four good mud houses, and a stone and brick mess house with the usual offices.

An earth dam has been constructed across the Kogin Delimi above the workings, and a beat 6 feet wide and 3 feet deep and 3,000 yards long has been cut from it to supply the workings with water.

Description of the Workings.

All the workings visited in December, 1906, were surface alluvial. Work was being carried on in three stopes, in which there were 9, 4, and 2 sluice boxes respectively.

The water for washing the gravel was obtained from the leat above-mentioned. The gravel, which is of varying richness, from 10 lbs. to the ton within two feet of the surface, to 40 lbs. to the ton and over at ten feet below the surface, is washed twice.

The semi-concentrates from several boxes are gathered and all re-washed through one box.

The concentrates are then taken to the dressing floors, where they are again washed by hand in large tubs. This work is done by women. This process gives nearly pure cassiterite.

This, when dry, undergoes further cleaning by women, who pour it from a height of two or three feet into trays, thus separating the silica dust from the cassiterite by the wind.

The cassiterite is then ready for bagging for export. A small portion of the total output is smelted at the mines. The plant for smelting consists of a cupola, having a capacity of about six cwt. per day.

The blast is supplied by two Root's Blowers, driven by a small vertical engine.

The cassiterite is first smelted by charcoal fuel and with a small quantity of red hæmatite as a flux, and after a sufficient number of bars have been obtained (in December, 1906, 232 bars), the bars are refined by being again passed through the cupola with green wood as fuel, and if carefully poured into the moulds, pure metallic tin is obtained.

The charcoal is supplied from four kilns, which easily burn the quantity necessary for the present working.

Naraguta Tin Mines.

The total output of black tin (cassiterite containing 65 per cent. to 70 per cent. metal) for twelve months ending 31st January, 1907, was 129 tons 10 cwt. 1 qr. 21 lbs.

The total output of tin smelted at the mine from the above for eight months ending 31st December, 1906, was 23 tons 4 cwt. 1 qr. 11½ lbs. The quantity of black tin in stock at 31st January, 1907, was 42 tons 10 cwt. 1 qr. 20½ lbs.

Geology.

All the rocks in the mining district are igneous and consist of granites, diorite, felspathic gneiss schists, quartz and silicon ironstones (laterite) and concretionary ironstone.

The minerals are cassiterite (oxide of tin), colombite, zircons resulting from the breaking down of the felspathic gneisses, and numerous iron minerals.

All the workings are surface alluvial, the cassiterite being usually found in the gravel—from the surface to an average depth of 12 to 15 feet.

No lode has yet been discovered, but the presence of tin in both the Kogin Delimi and the Kogin N'gell points to the source of the supply being in the granite hills to the south and west of Jos.

Transport.

The progress of the tin mining industry is greatly handicapped by the very primitive methods of transport.

The black tin and ingots are carried from the mines to Loko, on the river Benue, almost entirely by carriers, who are only able to carry a bag of black tin weighing 62 lbs. or an ingot weighing 65 lbs. The distance is about 190 miles and the journey takes 12 days. The Kano-Baro railway will at once give a new and shorter route, and in time no doubt the rail will run to the Bauchi highlands, and so bring the mining district within a couple of days of the Niger River.

From Loko to Keffi a cart road has been constructed, but as several stream crossings have not been bridged, and the road has no bottoming for through traffic, it is little improvement on the old native track.

The hill pagans from the towns in the neighbourhood of the mines have been successfully employed to carry to Jemaa (three days' journey).

Over 1,000 loads were thus shifted in December, 1906. Donkey and bullock transport has been tried, but up till now has not been successful.

Nearly all the donkeys at the mines died of some mysterious sickness which has not been determined.

Water Supply.

Until the supply of water in the mining district is conserved by the construction of dams so as to enable the mining company to carry on operations throughout the year, the mining industry cannot assume large proportions.

However, I understand the Niger Company is at present considering the question of constructing a large dam or series of dams across the Kogin Delimi above the present workings, whereby they would obtain an almost unlimited water supply.

Amount of Refined Tin Recovered.

I understand from the Chief Mining Engineer that the average daily weight of refined tin which their present smelting plant is capable of producing, is approximately 12 ingots of 65 lbs. each, making a daily total of 780 lbs.; the amount of black tin collected daily of course far exceeds this, and an experimental consignment has been sent to England in bags

to be smelted there, and there is a large accumulation now awaiting transport. I understand that the output of tin could be immediately increased with greater facilities for transport.

XVIII.—FINANCE, REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, AND CUSTOMS.

For abstracts of revenue and expenditure for last financial year, *see* Appendix IV.

These statements disclose an excess of £33,239, approximately, of revenue over expenditure during the last financial year. If to this amount is added the excess of assets over liabilities at the beginning of that year, *i.e.*, £46,757, it will be seen that the surplus funds of the Protectorate on the 31st March, 1907, amounted to £79,996.

The progress of the local revenue is most gratifying. It can hardly be expected that this will be continued next year as the amounts from Caravan Tolls and Canoe Taxation will disappear from revenue and are approximately £42,559 and £2,238, so that for the coming year the increase on the Land Tax or Tribute should just about meet this deficit. The increase on this for the past year is over £37,000. The area on which the Land Tax is collected is gradually increasing, and the time which the Residents had to give to toll collecting will now be devoted to this work.

CUSTOMS.

The receipts from the import duty on salt, at the rate of £1 per ton, entering Northern Nigeria, fell from £7,614 to £5,933; this was caused by the dislocation of the rubber trade, owing to the new regulations under the Forestry Proclamation, which have since been altered to suit the requirements of the trade.

The export of ivory again fell, being in 1905 three and a half tons, against one ton fifteen cwt. for the present year. It appears evident from this that elephant ivory can no longer be considered an important export from this Protectorate. Nearly all of this used to be purchased by the Hausa traders from the pagans, north of the Congo, and with the opening up of that river to trade the ivory trade has followed that route.

Customs revenue this year is £9,948, while last year it amounted to £11,068; the greater part of this is collected on imported salt.

Exports and imports as shown in Appendix I. are only for the half-year, and rendered by the Southern Nigeria Customs at Idah. I, however, append statements received from the merchants showing the whole year, but they are far from being satisfactory, as few details of imports are given. Appendix II. shows names of and the tonnage carried by vessels, other than Government, entered and cleared at the port of Lokoja.

NATIVE CANOE TRADE.

Statistics kept at Egori, although not embracing the whole calendar year, show that there is a large volume of trade on the river, and the number of canoes entered from Southern Nigeria roughly amounts to about 4,000 per annum.

CUSTOMS STATIONS.

No new stations have been opened during the year

TIMBER.

The Forestry Proclamation, 1906, imposes a royalty of 5 per cent. *ad valorem* at the place of export, on every log of any tree included in the schedule of the Proclamation. No royalties have as yet been paid.

TRANSIT TRADE TO FRENCH AND GERMAN POSSESSIONS ON THE UPPER BENUE RIVER.

A large increase has taken place in this trade, the Government stores and traders' goods being mostly carried in the vessels of the Niger Company.

The stern wheeler "N'Doni" with 1,810 packages, French Government cargo, arrived at Lokoja on 29th, and left for Lere (French territory south of lake Chad), *via* Yola and Garua on 30th July. In subsequent years this work is likely to show a large increase, as there are now two large European firms trading in Garua, namely, the Niger Company and Messrs. Pagenstecher and Co., and cargo will be constantly passing up and down river in transit.

XIX.—TRADE.

From information received from the Resident at Bornu I learn that a Cretan trader, by name Mahomed Mustapha, has settled in Maifoni, and is selling European goods for cash; also

English goods in general are becoming much more noticeable in this Province than they were a year ago, whilst English salt is now being found in all the markets, and fetches a much higher price than the native product of the country.

An agent for the German firm of Messrs. Pagenstecher and Company arrived at Yola, intending to open a trading station at that place; unfortunately, however, the steamer conveying goods, &c., for the firm referred to sank in the Lower Niger, in consequence of which trading operations had to be postponed.

In consequence of the intention of the German firms to compete with the Niger Company at Yola, the Agent General of the latter Company opened a station at Garua, and shortly afterwards at Gaundri, both in German territory, the latter place being the centre of the rubber trade. The German firm of Messrs. Randad and Stein also established themselves at Garua and Gaundri. German Adamawa is very rich in rubber, extremely little of which finds its way across the Yola frontier owing to the distance it has to be carried. It is reported that this firm collected rubber to the value of close on £30,000 in 1904-5, which they have not yet had an opportunity of shipping. Information has also reached me to the effect that in the short time the Niger Company has been in Garua, they have already purchased rubber more than sufficient to cover all the expenses incidental to their new venture, and at the same time show a handsome profit. In August last the authorities at Garua imposed an export tax of about £20 per ton on rubber exported from German Adamawa, and this, of course, puts an end to what little rubber trade by native traders has hitherto existed between German territory and Yola.

The Resident at Kano reports that the London and Kano Trading Company propose extending their business to Hadeija, Katsena, and Gummel. In this connection it was pointed out to me by a representative of the firm referred to, that the order entailing the sending of a European in charge of any convoy carrying merchandise between these places was a distinct hardship on them and hampered their trade, and as the Arab traders, being non-natives, were exempt from this rule, I was of opinion that this firm had a real grievance. I therefore cancelled this order for the whole Protectorate.

Mr. Krenthberger, a French trader from Zinder, has also been staying in Kano for some considerable time, and now proposes shortly establishing a factory in Kano.

From Nupe Province, information received shows that the Niger Company and the firms of Holt and Co. and Siegler and Co. have opened trading stations at Baro, the latter firm having also opened another trading factory at Katcha.

Permanent sites at Baro, the proposed terminus of the railway, will be allotted to these firms as soon as possible after

it is decided what land will be required for the railway, in order that they may be enabled to put up buildings more or less fire and burglar proof. Messrs. Holt & Co. have also opened two small stations at Takum and Bakundi, on the Benue River, and selected a piece of ground at Amar, and propose commencing trading operations at the latter place at once, while Messrs. Siegler and Company have commenced operations at Ibi (Muri province).

From the Acting Resident, Nupe Province, I learn that keen competition is taking place between the several European firms trading at Baro for the rubber and ground-nut crops north and north-east of Bida, and that a great improvement can be seen in trade generally. Much of this increase, however, must be put down to the greatly increased supervision over the tolls; so it is more apparent than real.

The value of trade was, in 1904, £55,736; 1905, £117,721; and 1906, £129,200.

Compared with last year kolas fell slightly, but potash—especially stone potash—showed a remarkable increase. Native manufactures and produce remain the same, whilst substantial rises were noticed in both live stock and imported goods.

Lagos traders are now, for the first time, beginning to go to Argungu and Sokoto Province. Formerly all kolas, cloths, &c., were brought into the town by local native traders who had exchanged their local (Argungu) produce for imported goods in the Jega and Sokoto markets, but since the telegraph construction party made their base for two months at Argungu, Yoruba traders from Lokoja and Lagos find that they can trade there with safety both to themselves and their goods, and sell their wares at a good profit.

The principal exports from Sokoto Province consist of live stock, native gowns, skins, and leather goods, while the imports are made up of kolas, English cloths, spices, and salt.

Jega is the principal trade centre in the Province, but more in the nature of an exchange or a transit depot than anything else. The local trade is small. The total trade passing through Jega for 1906 was valued at:—

			£	s.	d.
Imports	...	...	38,706	18	6
Exports	...	...	15,131	8	3
Total	...	...	£53,838	6	9

There are no large traders at Sokoto, and the volume of trade passing through is small, but the important markets are

well attended. The chief articles for sale consist mainly of live stock, produce, and food-stuffs, and locally-made goods, such as pottery, horse-trappings, hoes, leather-ware, mats, &c.

From the Resident at Zaria I learn that there is a considerable falling off in the amount collected for Caravan Tolls, and he considers that it is probably caused through small traders avoiding the toll stations, £1,548 less being collected than during the previous year. Imported salt, however, shows an enormous falling off, the value passing through the toll stations of this Province being only £3,947, as compared with £14,164 in 1905. Kolas also show a decrease of £5,792 over the previous year, and other imports a total decrease of £2,455, of which imported cloth accounts for £837. The total value of imports into this Province, the Resident informs me, for 1906 was £58,937, against £78,181 the previous year, showing a total decrease in value of £19,243. Exports show a slight increase in most cases (*e.g.*, potash, £1,384), and live-stock is practically stationary. The total value of exports for 1906 was £45,021, as against £44,602 for 1905, showing an increase of £419. With only two toll stations in a Province upwards of 23,000 square miles in extent it is obvious that only a portion of the total trade will be represented by the returns of the tolls collected.

TRADE FROM THE NORTH COAST OF AFRICA TO BORNU.

The former wealth of Bornu lay to a great extent in the trade with the surrounding countries. Bornu was the great market where the wares from the Hausa States were exchanged for those from Bagirmi and Kanem, and continual caravans from the north exchanged their goods for the product of the land.

The number and size of these caravans must have been enormous. Even now, after more than ten years' disuse, the road is in most places perfectly preserved, with the old camping places clearly marked, and large stone heaps showing the direction of the road afar off.

With the destruction of Bornu by Rabeh, the trade ceased, and many of the firms at Tripoli went bankrupt. The advent since of a European Power has done away with the slave traffic which once was the chief item of commerce, while new roads have been opened to the west. In spite of this, Arab traders are to be met with all along the route from Tripoli, willing and determined to re-start the old trade.

SALT INDUSTRY AT BILMA.

While Mr. Vischer (who has recently travelled by the desert route from Tripoli to Kuka) was at Bilma (French

territory), three caravans arrived with 3,000, 4,000, and 6,000 camels respectively. The Asben caravans arrive usually in October, November, and December, and number over 20,000 camels. They bring with them chiefly gero (millet), as the inhabitants of Bilma cultivate only dates—insufficient for their wants. They also carry Manchester goods, camel saddles, &c., for which they exchange salt. A great number of the camels carry only grass, as no food for these animals is found on the road or at Bilma. It can be assumed that each camel leaves the oasis with at least four loaves of salt, each weighing 28 lbs., which makes a total export per annum to Air of 80,000 loaves, about 1,000 tons, two-thirds of which, a French Officer at this place assured Mr. Vischer, went to Northern Nigeria. There is no rainfall at Bilma, but anywhere in the oasis water is found at a depth of one foot or even less. At the places where the ground contains much salt, the water is collected in a number of holes. The salt then forms a thick crust on the surface of the water: when sufficiently thick the crust is broken and the salt falls to the bottom of the tank, a new crust is formed, and so on till the mass of the broken pieces of salt nearly comes to the surface. The salt is then collected and formed into loaves, which are stored away till the arrival of the caravans from Air.

ILORIN TRADE.

The volume of trade passing through Ilorin during 1906 is as follows:—

IMPORTS.

Class of Goods.						Amount.	Value.		
							£	s.	d.
Kolas	...	...	...	...	Tons.	201 $\frac{1}{4}$	51,453	1	0
Spices	...	...	...	...	"	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	148	15	0
Beads and glass	...	...	...	...	"	$\frac{1}{4}$	21	10	0
Ilorin gowns (transit)	...	...	...	...	No.	18,921	4,800	14	0
Straw work	...	...	...	...	"	125	7	10	0
Fowls (transit)	...	...	...	...	"	280	7	0	0
Imported cloth	...	...	...	...	Tons.	114	15,423	3	0
Native hardware	...	...	...	...	"	$\frac{1}{4}$	30	15	0
Camwood	...	...	...	...	"	44	94	10	0
Total	...	...	...	...		—	71,986	18	0

EXPORTS.

Class of Goods.					Amount.	Value.		
						£	s.	d.
Loose Potash	...	...	...	Tons	366	13,191	14	0
Stone Potash	...	...	...	"	186	6,760	0	0
Sandals	...	...	...	Pairs	97,346	224	7	0
Cotton Yarn	...	...	...	Tons	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	325	3	0
Indigo (Balls)	...	...	...	No.	3,582	53	5	0
Native Cloths	...	...	...	"	1,500	505	10	0
Calabashes	...	...	...	"	17,379	234	13	0
Skins	...	...	...	"	1,742	80	15	0
Horses	...	...	...	"	254	957	15	0
Cattle	...	...	...	"	2,845	9,779	5	0
Sheep	...	...	...	"	7,726	3,613	17	0
Native Hardware	...	...	...	"	460	20	5	0
Lantana Stone	...	...	...	lbs.	12	392	0	6
Cotton (unginned)	...	...	...	Tons.	338	2,366	0	6
Silver Coin	...	...	...	...	—	9,342	0	0
Total	...	...	...	...	—	47,846	9	0

The total volume of trade imports and exports amounts to the respectable sum of £119,833 2s. Kolas are by far the most important of all the imports, and there is every likelihood of this being greatly increased; the year under review gave the imported value as over £20,000 more than the previous year, which is a very remarkable increase. The silver coin mentioned in exports was money taken to Lagos by caravan people to purchase goods with. In examining these trade statistics it should be remembered that all the English cloth that has passed through Ilorin (untaxed) is not shown, and even at the lowest computation this must be put down as valued at £80,000, so that the volume of trade passing through this Province is roughly £200,000, and when the railway reaches Ilorin the increase on these figures should be very great indeed. It cannot be denied that there is each year an increase of trade, there being an increasing demand for English goods of all kinds. This prosperity is due in great part to the peaceful condition of the Province; the native is no longer afraid of leaving his town, and is opening up farms in all directions, which permits of his enjoying luxuries undreamt of in the past. Again, there is a large circulation of cash; time-expired soldiers and police, as well as carriers, at once turn their attention to trade and lay in a stock of kolas and English cloth, and passing from market to market, do a large and unostentatious business.

OTHER PROVINCES.

The total volume of trade in the Yola Province during the year amounted to £19,600, on which tolls to the amount of

£1,334 0s. 9d. were collected, against a total of £15,400 trade and £1,022 0s. 4d. tolls the preceding year, an increase of £4,200 on the one and £312 0s. 5d. on the other. The total value of goods on which customs were paid during 1906 was £1,055, the duties collected amounting to £108 1s. 1d., as against £930 and £137 15s. 6d. in 1905. Native cloths take the lead in value of merchandise traded in, having advanced from the fourth position in 1905 to the premier one in 1906 with a total value of goods handled by merchants of £5,864, as against £2,184 the previous year, an increase of £3,680. When English cotton goods were allowed to pass toll free, traders abandoned travelling with native cotton goods which were taxed 15 per cent., and traded solely in imported cloth, and the great danger of an important native industry being crushed out through an unfair application of the caravan tolls appeared. This was pointed out just in time, and all goods traded in were placed on exactly the same footing as regards tolls. The native cloth, though less showy than English cloth, is much more durable and better value to the native than the cloth imported and described by the Resident as "grey baft," and no native, he reports, will take the English material if he can possibly get the native article, even though he may have to pay more for the latter. Cloth weaving is the most important industry in the Yola Province, and has, in the opinion of the Resident, a great future before it if encouraged. Next to cloth in importance comes potash, with a value of £4,546, as against £2,647 in 1905, an increase of £1,899 accounted for by the increased safety of the Yola-Bornu road. Next in importance comes cattle, which last year held premier position, with a total value of £4,154, as against £4,670 the preceding year, a decrease of £516. Salt, with a value of £3,389, as against £2,865 in 1905, an increase of £524. Imported kolos to the value of £1,145, as against £921 the previous year, an increase of £224. English cottons dropped from £1,478 in 1905 to £810 in 1906, a decrease of £668, while no other item touched £1,000. Horses were dealt in during the year under review to the extent of £300, as against £284 last year, while ivory amounted to £179, as against £316 in 1905. Hardware, donkeys, sheep, and goats, antimony, scents, sandals, beads, skins, and other sundries were dealt in to small amounts.

The value of the trade in Bornu as indicated by goods on which tolls have been paid stands at a little under £25,000. The Resident estimates the value of the passing trade for the year at £40,000 or £18,000 less than it was estimated at the end of 1904.

The volume of trade in the Borgu Province amounted during the year to the sum of £51,375. The chief imports consisted of kolos £30,160, English cloth £2,746, native cloth £851, and exports of live-stock £14,267, natron £946, skins £877, and

salt £1,115. The total tonnage of goods carried throughout the year amounted to close on 700 tons.

XX.—ECONOMIC.

Mr. Birtwistle, Commercial Intelligence Officer for Southern Nigeria, and Mr. Dudgeon, Superintendent of Agriculture for the British West African Colonies, have both visited and toured portions of Northern Nigeria.

Cotton.

The British Cotton Growing Association commenced ginning at the Newton Ginnery, Lokoja, on the 1st of February, 1906, and up to the 31st of December had ginned and shipped 1,847 bales, weighing 159 tons, so that very satisfactory progress has been made during the year.

A new ginnery, with baling press worked by hydraulic power, has been erected at Lokoja, so that from now all bales from Northern Nigeria will be compressed into half their present size or made the uniform weight of 400 lbs., which will facilitate handling in shipping and lessen the cost of freight, &c.

At Agudu, near Shonga, in Ilorin Province, a 3 gin (70 saws each) ginnery, with all the latest improvements and storage accommodation, was completed at the beginning of the year, and up to the present over 1,000 bales of cotton have been shipped therefrom. The yearly output from this ginnery will not be less than 3,000 or 4,000 bales. Additional storage in the dry season is required, and is now being put up.

The cotton in the Ilorin Province is all of the woolly seeded variety.

At Lokoja a considerable amount of seed cotton has been dealt with from Nassarawa and Bassa Provinces, all of the clean black seeded kind, a variety that produces the best lint from West Africa. In the Southern portion of Kabba Province this variety is largely cultivated by the inhabitants, and the lint made into native cloth.

It not only has the best fibre, but owing to the cleanness of the seed after ginning, is the most suitable for making cotton cake and extracting the oil.

Owing to its superiority over other varieties, instructions have been received by the manager at Lokoja from the British Cotton Growing Association in England to save all the seed and only distribute this kind to the natives. Two

hundred tons have also been ordered for distribution in the cotton growing districts of Southern Nigeria, and smaller quantities for other districts.

To develop cotton growing in these Provinces and stimulate the natives to grow it, a large plantation should be made at some convenient cotton-growing centre in either Nassarawa or Bassa Provinces under a capable manager, also a permanent travelling agriculturist appointed to encourage the natives to grow it, to select buying stations, and arrange about the transport of the seed cotton to the nearest ginnery, thus showing the natives that a reliable market can always be had for their produce. I recommend that nothing less than 1*d.* per lb. for seed cotton should be paid.

It is also to be hoped that a new ginnery will be built at some convenient centre up the Benue, such as Loko or Ibi.

In inland towns such as Kabba, Nassarawa, Keffi, Dekina, Bida, &c., it would be advisable that one gin, say of 50 saws, be erected and worked by horse or donkey power. The lint could then be easily transported to some convenient buying station and the seed selected and again distributed to the native farmers. At Yola, also on the Benue, and at Yelwa, on the higher Niger, it would be advisable to have one of these gins worked by horse power to receive the seed cotton from the Bornu and Argungu Districts respectively. It is more than likely that at both of these places (Yola and Yelwa) power ginneries will in the future require to be erected.

Now that it has been practically settled that the railway will be at Zaria in about three years' time it would be advisable that a representative of the British Cotton Growing Association be stationed at Zaria to work up the cotton interests in that country and encourage the natives only to grow the best kinds of cotton. A horse-power saw gin could also easily be erected there and the lint transported by donkeys to the nearest point for shipment.

No doubt this would be at a loss for a year or two, but when the railway got there, it would then be an established venture, and there would be little or no time lost in getting traffic for the railway to its fullest extent, and realising the hope that Zaria will be one of the centres of the cotton business in Northern Nigeria.

Very large tracts of land suitable for cotton planting are to be found on the banks of the Niger and Benue Rivers, where the question of land transport need hardly be considered, but, unfortunately, over the greater part of this area the population is sparse, and it will take years to undo the terrible effects of the last century of slave raiding. I need only add that all the officials in the Protectorate are most willing and keen to assist in every possible way the enterprise shown by the British Cotton Growing Association.

Leather Industry.

The skins used are those of the goat and sheep, of which there are various kinds. After the skins are tanned the bulk of them are tanned red, while a few are dressed pure white or cream colour, others yellow, blue or green. Some of the dyes used are from imported aniline dyes. Prices of the skins at Kano are from 6*d.* to 9*d.* each. From enquiries made at home I find that leather merchants would prefer to have the skins sent home undyed.

Tobacco.

There are various varieties grown for local consumption only, but there are extensive areas available for its cultivation. In the future a large export of this may be expected, but exhaustive experiments will have to be made of the various kinds grown locally as well as with imported seeds, so that a selection of the kind most suitable to the country may be settled.

Ground Nuts.

Ground-nuts are grown throughout the Protectorate and could be grown for export in immense quantities.

These grow only in the various belts of forest along the streams, and the quantity is not sufficient for food consumption, all of it being used for food.

Shea Butter.

Shea butter trees are found in great quantities in many parts of the Protectorate, especially in Nupe, Zaria, and Nassarawa. Most of this product goes to waste for lack of transport or for lack of population to gather it.

Gum Arabic.

This is found in quantity in the Northern Hausa States and in Bornu, where large forests of the trees are found; very little of the gum is collected however. The gum freely exudes from the stem and branches during the dry season and coagulates at once, generally forming pear shaped globules of a beautiful amber colour.

Timber for Export.

Owing to the annual burning of the country there are few areas where timber grows to any great extent, and what there is will be required for local consumption. So far the best area found is on the banks of the Gurara River, a short distance above Lokoja, and the best timber is being cut for the Government saw mill at Lokoja.

Rubber.

Thousands of acres, at a nominal rental, could be rented from Government for the purpose of growing

rubber, with ground equal to any in the world, but no one applies or tries to take advantage of this privilege. 25,000 rubber trees (*Funtumia elastica*) were planted last year in the Lokoja Government Plantation, of these 6,000 died during the dry season. After the next rains the remaining 19,000 should be strong enough to resist the rigours of the dry season, all the gaps will be filled up and another forty acres are to be planted out from the nurseries where the following rubber seedlings are grown and given to Residents to experiment with, and also given free to natives who may apply:—*Funtumia elastica*, *Castilloa elastica*, Para rubber and Ceara rubber.

Forestry.

It is reported by the Assistant Forestry Officer that the rubber plantation in the Gurara River district is in a distinctly unsatisfactory state, 1,500 *Funtumia elastica* out of a total of 3,000 planted having died during the year; the reasons given for this condition of affairs being that, owing to lack of proper supervision the under growth was allowed to grow up too much round the young trees. The soil in the neighbourhood is good, and were the plantation properly looked after, rubber trees would do well, and to attain this end, cleaning operations will be commenced during the coming year, and more young trees planted.

Hitherto a large and increasing trade in rubber has been done, but unfortunately at the expense of the vines and trees. For export of rubber, *see* Customs Appendix.

Farin Rama.

This fibre is being exported; the supply will not be great this year as plantations were only made with a view to local consumption. In 1907 a considerable amount will be planted for export, and as this fibre grows like a weed, and the samples sent to the Niger Company at Ibi are reported upon as excellent, it is probable that the cultivation of this article will prove a source of wealth in the future.

Beeswax.

This article could be got in large quantities, especially from the pagan communities, where bee keeping is known.

Grain and Food Stuff.

It is very satisfactory to learn from the Residents that the year under review has been one of the best seasons for many years. Many new farms were opened up and an abundance of every kind of crop grown, so that the distress caused by the failure of 1903 to 1904 harvest has disappeared. The

natives show an increased tendency to leave the walled towns and live permanently on their farms.

XXI.—POST AND TELEGRAPHS.

Considerable progress has been made in this department during 1906. The idea of securing a system, uniform and elastic and suited to local circumstances has been steadily persevered with, and the increase in the postal and telegraph work has been expeditiously and inexpensively met.

Work in the Postmaster-General's department has increased enormously, and will continue doing so until such time as Zungeru and Kano are in a position to act as independent head offices with their out-stations as sub-offices.

Accounts from every office in the Protectorate are cleared and dealt with in Lokoja, but until such time as the staff is increased in proportion to the amount of work done, it will be an impossibility to invest Zungeru and Kano with the full powers of a head office.

Much good work has been done in the accounting system introduced by the Postmaster-General, and now in operation. Quarterly accounts are exchanged between all the coast colonies as well as with the United Kingdom.

Mail work shows very satisfactory growth, the inland business, viz., between province and province, is increasing rapidly. Foreign and colonial work has generally grown, the most noticeable increase being in the parcel post. This is very largely due to the enormous business carried on with England and Tripoli by Arab traders, who continue to send and receive goods through the post. In addition to this many officials stationed up country have regular supplies of provisions forwarded to them by this system. In view of the increased transport charges introduced last April, this growth is very satisfactory.

Letters have been received from most of the Benue stations reporting the arrivals of the mails with commendable regularity and despatch. The mail runners through the Bauchi and Bornu Provinces are now supplied under contract by the various chiefs, and though this arrangement is a little more expensive than the old system, it is extremely satisfactory.

TELEGRAPHS.

A very fair state of efficiency now exists in the personnel of the telegraph department, and it is thought that the difficulty previously experienced in obtaining a sufficient number of

operators has been overcome. The number of official telegrams shows a decrease, chiefly owing to the careful check exercised to see that needless telegrams are not sent.

The construction is not all that could be desired. The Benue line has given much trouble, the Munshis having cut and carried away close on a mile of line at Sinkai in the Muri Province, while the Pagans between Amar and Yola cut the line in thirty places, and the sub-fluvial cables at Jamatar, Sendridi and Amar broke away during the rains. The Zaria-Bauchi-Nafada extension has been unsatisfactory. The fault is supposed to be that of too hasty construction, but the interruptions have been neither so frequent nor of such long duration as those of 1905.

(a) SOKOTO LINE.

The last 90 miles were erected and the telegraph office opened at Sokoto on the 18th June, 1906. From Zungeru to Sokoto the line is erected on iron poles, and passes through Yelwa (telegraph office), Ambrusa and Argungu to Sokoto.

(b) ZUNGERU TO KANO.

Forty-two miles of the line between Zungeru and Zaria, and nearly all the line from Zaria to Kano, is still carried on wooden poles.

(c) ZARIA TO BAUCHI.

222 miles. The reconstruction of this line on the new alignment proceeded from both ends at once, and has been completed from Zaria to Rahama: distance approximately 100 miles. The line is to be carried on iron poles throughout, and from Rahama to Bauchi every third pole is of iron.

(d) BAUCHI TO NAFADA.

120 miles. This line was completed on iron poles and the telegraph office at Nafada was opened.

(e) NAFADA TO MAIFONI.

150 miles. Approximately 75 miles of this line have been erected, and the materials for the remaining length are on, or adjacent to, the proposed alignment.

(f) BENUE TELEGRAPHS.

The line from Lokoja to Yola was completed during 1905. Several cables laid across large tributaries of the Benue have not been satisfactory, and are being replaced by wires on high sectional poles. Communication with Yola is, however, frequently interrupted. The interruptions have in several

cases been caused by the removal and cutting of brackets, wire, &c., by natives, necessitating the sending of new materials from the base, with a consequent protracted interruption.

It should be noticed that, in all lines under construction during the year under report, all joints are being soldered; this is also being gradually carried out over all telegraph lines previously erected.

The mileage of telegraph line erected during 1906 was:—

	Miles.
Jega to Sokoto	90
Bauchi to Zaria	172
Bauchi to Nafada	120
Nafada to Maifoni	75
Total (miles of line) ...	457

To complete the telegraph circles there remain 250 miles to be erected to join Sokoto and Katsena with Kano, 200 miles to join Maifoni to Yola, and 110 to join Yelwa on the Niger with Jebba. The temporary lines carried on wooden poles, which are so liable to destruction, are fast being superseded by permanent lines on iron poles.

The approximate length of telegraph lines erected in the Protectorate is 2,200 miles.

The money order system does not show the abnormal increase of 1905 over 1904, but now that it has settled down, a steady and growing increase is expected. The system is extremely popular, and has up till now proved of great convenience.

Arrangements are being made for remitters of money orders to be acquainted when a money order is paid, and it is hoped that this innovation will be introduced as from April 1st, 1907.

Complaints from European officials reporting losses and delays to mails have not been nearly so great as in former years. The revenue of the post and telegraphs for 1906 was approximately £3,600, in addition to which about £1,300 was collected as customs duties.

The increase over 1905, excluding customs, is approximately £450, or 14 per cent.; including customs duties, the increase is £1,000 or 25 per cent. The increased expenditure was £2,490 or 27 per cent.

On December 31st, 1906, there were 21 telegraph stations and 27 post offices. The staff numbered 9 European officials, 10 postal clerks, 37 operators, 10 learners, 6 native linesmen, (a skilled or clerical non-European staff of 63) and a non-clerical staff of 140.

Postal matter received and despatched from the general post office, Lokoja, was as follows:—

Money Orders.

Issued in Northern Nigeria, payable in	1906.	1905.	Issued in other Countries, payable in Northern Nigeria.	1906.	1905,
	£	£		£	£
United Kingdom ...	12,758	12,538	United Kingdom...	379	235
Sierra Leone ...	1,144	1,439	Sierra Leone ...	56	57
Gold Coast...	1,708	2,251	Gold Coast ...	225	54
Southern Nigeria ...	7,570	6,620	Southern Nigeria...	218	129
Northern Nigeria ...	1,829	1,482			
Total ...	25,009	24,330	Total ...	879	475

Total for 1906, £25,887.

Total for 1905, £24,805.

Increase for 1906, £1,082, or 4·4 per cent.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for 1906.

Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	£		£
Sale of Stamps ...	3,200	Salaries, wages, stores, Inland Mail Service, &c.	11,409
Money Order Commission	152	Share of Subsidy to Ocean Steamers.	170
Share of Postage from other Colonies.	200	Share of Postage to other Countries.	10
Miscellaneous ...	10		
Customs dues collected on parcels.	1,300		
Total Revenue ...	4,862		
Estimated Value of Postage on Official Correspondence.	3,400		
Estimated value of Fees on Official Telegrams.	3,300		
Total Value of Work done	11,562	Total Expenditure ...	11,589

Year.	Letters.				Post Cards.	Newspapers and Book Packets.		Gross Total.	Increase for 1906
	Foreign and Colonial.		Inland.			Foreign and Colonial.	Inland.		
	Private.	Official.	Private.	Official.					
1906	180,000	6,000	5,000	60,000	5,000	77,500	1,000	334,500	19,830, or 8·3 per cent
1905	177,870	5,000	1,400	60,000	4,300	66,000	300	314,670	

Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for 1906—cont.

Year.	Parcels.			
	Foreign and Colonial.	Inland.	Total.	Increase.
1906 ...	12,780	1,400	14,180	3,720 or 36.5 per cent.
1905 ...	9,710	750	10,460	

Year.	Telegrams.					
	Inland.		Foreign.		Gross Total.	Decrease for 1906.
	Private.	Official.	Private.	Official.		
1906 ...	15,000	105,000	984	280	121,264	7,166 or 6.7 per cent.
1905 ...	9,310	118,000	920	200	128,430	

XXII.—TAXATION.

The Land Revenue or General Tax first introduced as a tentative measure in 1901 and since greatly elaborated and made workable, will have, before finality can be reached, to be revised, a work which will require much thought and experience to bear on the subject, as it includes Land Tenure. Meanwhile the assessment of the Provinces is progressing steadily. Great progress has been made in the divisions of the Emirates into homologous districts, each with a Headman in charge. Many of the office-holders formerly idling their time in the native cities, have gone out, and are administering their estates, and the Emirs and Headmen are learning to grasp and appreciate our methods, and the assessment collection and payment of taxes are becoming easier.

The greater part of the Protectorate has now been mapped and approximately assessed, and as this is done a closer assessment will be made, and care taken to make the incidence bear fairly on each individual.

CARAVAN TOLLS.

It was with much pleasure that I received a telegram from the Secretary of State informing me that he agreed to the abolition of the toll system as from the 1st April, 1907, and the news of this measure was received with much satisfaction throughout the Protectorate.

CANOE TAX.

I am glad to state the Secretary of State has concurred in the proposals put forward by me on this subject, and the tax will be abolished as from the 1st April, 1907.

The capitation tax of five shillings per head on all carriers engaged by merchants, has also been repealed.

XXIII.—FRENCH AND GERMANS.

During the year under review, our relations with the local representatives of France and Germany have been of a most cordial and gratifying nature.

Personal acquaintance and a readiness to assist, and, as far as possible, meet each other's wishes in matters of dispute, have done much to remove all questions likely to cause friction; and every opportunity has been taken to arrange meetings between the Protectorate officers and the representatives of other Powers administering districts on the frontiers.

During the early part of the year a certain amount of friction existed, owing to one of the German native chiefs raiding the southern border of the Yola Province. To obviate this difficulty, a line was cut through the disputed area, approximating to the imaginary line laid down by the Boundary Commission, and this was agreed to by the German Resident as a temporary boundary pending its proper delimitation. Since the cutting of this line all friction on this part of the frontier has ceased.

XXIV.—SENUSSISM.

Monsieur Duchesne who, in the temporary absence from Paris of Monsieur Binger, directed the African Department of the Ministry of the Colonies in 1905, says that no reports have been received from West Africa which could give rise to the belief that there was any increase of activity on the part of the Senussists. The natives of the French Possessions on that coast were but lukewarm followers of the Prophet. They were childlike people, and, beyond the amusement afforded to them by the daily salaam or prayer, which entailed a considerable amount of shouting and gesticulation, their religion meant but little to them. For these reasons he did not believe that there was much to be feared in those districts from the fanatical tenets of Senussism. The case was very different in Algiers and in Tunis, and also in Egypt. It is a most difficult matter to arrive at a just appreciation of the importance or future of

the movement, diametrically opposite views being held with regard to it by those best qualified to form and express an opinion on the subject.

Some maintain that it constitutes a most serious and ever increasing danger. Others hold that if treated with tact and prudence it could easily be held in check. To avoid anything in the nature of an armed conflict, has been the aim of the French Government all along, and by every available means to improve their relations with the chiefs, and thus gain over their followers.

This is, as everyone knows, no easy task, for so great is the mystery in which the whole matter is shrouded, that it is almost impossible to be certain whether the old chief whose death was previously reported, actually died or not. The views held on this matter by Monsieur Duchesne were laid before the Residents of (a) Zaria, (b) Kano, (c) Sokoto, and (d) Bornu, from whom the following replies were received:—

(a) Captain C. W. Orr (Zaria Province) did not think the Senussi movement was likely to affect his Province, as Mohammedanism there is more or less of a veneer, and Monsieur Duchesne's description of the attitude of the natives to it corresponds exactly to his own ideas on the subject.

(b) Dr. Cargill, C.M.G. (Kano Province), thinks Mohammedanism is rather more than a thin veneer. Even the most superficial and child-like native, he reports, is stung to the quick by being called a Kaffiri (non-Mohammedan). He may not understand the faith, but he feels its moral force and potency. As regards the Senussi, he does not fear the sect as a proselytising agent but as an organisation, which, if driven into a corner by the French, might stir up a great jihad and repeat the success of the Egyptian Mahdi.

(c) Major Burdon, C.M.G. (Sokoto Province), informs me that the Senussi movement does not affect the Province.

(d) Mr. Hewby, C.M.G. (Bornu Province), is rather surprised to read M. Duchesne's remarks, which seem applicable more to the natives of the coast possessions than to the interior tribes. While he agrees with Dr. Cargill's remarks, he thinks it will be time enough to pay serious attention in Nigeria to the Senussi movement when their forces are driven by the French into a corner in this direction, or if they should inflict a real defeat upon the French. Bornu, he goes on to say, is not a fanatically inclined province. The people have bitter recollections both of the Fulani to westward and the quasi-Arabs to eastward of them; and the Senussi movement has not yet affected the province under his charge.

Reporting, under date of 14th March, 1906, the Hon. Oliver Howard, Resident in Bauchi, informs me that a certain Mallam Senussi was said to be collecting a large following near Lake Chad, and that Niebe, Rabeh's son, was with him. His

informant had been sent by the Emir of Bauchi, as Mr. Howard wished to ascertain whether the recent disturbances and constant rumours that a Mahdi was coming to Bima had anything to do with the Senussi, and the information brought back was to the effect that Mallam Senussi intended coming to Bima; he added, however, that he did not think that at the time he was in British territory. The Resident, while declining to believe that it was the Senussi himself, believed that he was an emissary of the Senussi, and that he had been organising a rising in the Protectorate for some time. He further asserts that the Senussi had been on bad terms with the Emir of Wadai for some time past, and doubtless he realises that now that the French have occupied Wadai it will no longer be possible for him to evade the white man, and this being so, the tradition that the Mahdi would raise his flag at Bima might induce him to select this place as his headquarters.

Major McClintock (of Bornu Province), however, was inclined to discredit the information received from the Resident, Bauchi, with reference to the Senussi movement east of Chad. He says that its connection with Bornu is remote, and that from the information he had received which he believes to be genuine, two Senussi Mallams were preaching the Senussi doctrine in or near the town of Yin, in Borku. This place is many hundreds of miles north-east of Bornu and between our frontier and Borku there is a large French force who have lately defeated a Wadai army, but he is positive that the Wadai people *are* devout followers of the Senussi, though Senussi has not yet assisted them with any armed force. I am inclined to agree with Major McClintock in that the vague rumours of Senussi movements in the north-east, and the rumour of the advance of the Senussi army on Kanem cannot at present be taken seriously or held to constitute any present danger. Reports received speak vaguely of a movement southwards from Borku, which is some 600 miles from Bornu, and almost as near to Egyptian as to Nigerian territory. The French have a powerful force operating against Wadai, which is at present in the vicinity of Fitri, and it is generally understood that this body of troops would be reinforced by troops from Zinder—in any case, should there be a militant Senussi movement about to be inaugurated, it would in all probability be adequately dealt with by the French, and it would be a very long time indeed before it reached our frontier. Finally, there appears no special reason why such a movement should be directed towards Northern Nigeria. The Shehu of Bornu, equally with the Fulani, who acknowledge the Serikin Muslimin of Sokoto as their religious head, is opposed to Senussism—which, moreover, at the present moment has all its energies concentrated on its struggle with the French advance on Wadai. I think the case is well summed up by Mr. Justin Alvarez, in reporting the death of the Senussi El Mahdi, in September, 1902: "I con-

sider it an event of no inconsiderable importance, as it is impossible to say whether the Senussi order will ever recover from the blow it has received." Whether his view that "another Mahdist peril of a far different type to the Sudanese variety, but none the less dangerous on account of the ramifications or the order being more widely spread, may be said to have passed away," will prove to be an accurate forecast of events, is difficult to say, but up to the present time little or no information has been received tending to show that his forecast is likely to prove incorrect.

It appears a remarkable thing that the alleged false "prophet," who appeared in Bauchi some months ago, and the one who appeared at Fort Lamy in January, should have been so easily located, taken and disposed of, if they were emissaries of the mysterious Senussi, whose machinations are supposed to be dangerous chiefly for their undermining secrecy.

More notable than any other occurrence seems to be the exodus during the past three years of thousands of Fulani of all sorts, but mostly Mellawa from the French Middle Niger. These people have all "posed" as "pilgrims to Mecca," and, though some parties have had quite extensive herds and flocks, have passed through Bornu free of dues; yet practically none of them have gone to Mecca.

Some have gone to the "Bornu Mallam," others are squatting in Baghirmi and Wadai, but the majority of them are settling in the Nile Valley, that is to say, they are simply trekking from the Niger to the Nile.

APPENDIX I.

APPROXIMATE IMPORTS and EXPORTS. Returns sent in by Trading Firms.

Imports.

Article.	Quantity and Value.
Salt	5,933 tons.
Guns	800 only.
Powder	2,000 lbs.
Iron bars	30,860 bars.
Kerosene	3,000 cases.
Tobacco	25,000 lbs.
<i>Ad valorem</i> cottons and sundries, value	£116.173
Kolas, value	£21,924

Approximate Exports.

Article.	Quantity and Value.
Shea butter	113 tons.
Oil seeds	4,466 "
Gum arabic	313 "
Ivory	1 ton 15 cwt.
Rubber... ..	573 tons.
Wood oil	712 gals.
Other products, value about	£2,000
Cotton	1847 bales (159 tons.)
Cotton seed	169 tons.

SPECIFIC IMPORTS into NORTHERN NIGERIA *via* Niger River
for half year ending 31st December, 1906.

Article.	Total Value.
	£ s. d.
Aerated waters	31 2 1
Ale, Beer, &c.	336 15 7
" "	39 1 10
Cigarettes	226 1 5
Pistols and revolvers	40 0 0
Kola nuts	3,136 11 6
Kerosene	372 6 6
Sugar	1,411 3 1
Spirits unenumerated	27 19 9
Salt	9,002 6 4
Tobacco, unmanufactured... ..	332 15 3
Whisky	1,090 12 3
Wines, claret	166 12 6
" other kind	53 15 10
Spirits, brandy	55 18 11
" gin and Geneva	330 15 7
" rum	1 15 0
Cartridges	82 13 5
Wines, sparkling	405 3 5
Lead... ..	9 13 7
Cigars	39 17 6
Guns, danes... ..	160 0 0
" other than danes	2 10 0
Gunpowder	7 10 0
Tea	29 8 4
Spirits, liqueurs	9 6 0
Tobacco, manufactured	3 18 2
Total value	17,405 13 10

Ad Valorem IMPORTS into NORTHERN NIGERIA for half year
ending 31st December, 1906.

Article.	Total Value.
	£ s. d.
Beads	880 10 6
Brushware	4 18 11
Cotton goods	41,191 8 11
Cordage and twine... ..	84 5 7
Clocks and watches	26 17 7
Chemicals and drugs	317 9 7
Canvas and tarpaulin	18 5 5
Earthenware	841 14 9
Furniture	235 4 6
Glassware	103 2 8
Goods unenumerated	5,856 9 11
Hardware and cutlery	3,605 4 6
Leather goods	214 1 2
Matches	272 3 6
Provisions	5,117 15 6
Perfumery	181 18 5
Silk goods	371 17 7
Stationery	184 10 6
Soap	427 0 7
Wearing apparel	491 1 4
Flour	404 4 11
Haberdashery	150 3 2
Rice	63 7 6
Umbrellas	94 7 10
Woollen goods	343 16 7
Pipes, smoking	7 0 0
Beef and pork	9 15 11
Musical instruments	8 14 3
Brass and copperware	2 5 8
Jewellery and plate	19 0 0
Wood and straw manufactures	6 12 0
Oils, other kinds	0 12 0
Bread and biscuits... ..	2 2 9
Fish, salted and cured	6 17 6
Total value	61,543 1 6

FREE IMPORTS into NORTHERN NIGERIA for half year ending
31st December, 1906.

Article.	Total Value.
	£ s. d.
Bags and sacks	1,187 19 8
Books, printed	63 15 4
Building material	6,103 16 10
Carried forward	7,355 11 10

Free Imports—cont.

Article.			Total Value.		
			£	s.	d.
Brought forward	...	...	7,355	11	10
Coals...	...	...	420	1	3
Fresh provisions	...	...	49	2	0
Goods, unenumerated, foreign	...	...	623	3	7
" " native	...	...	249	13	2
Grindstones...	...	...	0	9	8
Hardware and cutlery	...	...	517	11	3
Machinery	...	...	106	6	10
Boats and canoes	...	...	519	12	6
Coopers' stores	...	...	151	4	7
Leather goods	...	...	76	17	5
Specie, commercial	...	...	520	0	0
" government	...	...	10,900	0	0
Vehicles	...	...	16	7	9
Canvas and tarpaulin	...	...	2	8	0
Cordage and twine...	...	...	32	11	10
Engine stores	...	...	286	18	11
Masts and spars	...	...	7	0	0
Wood and straw manufactures	...	...	9	0	0
Arms and ammunition	...	...	22	13	5
Scientific instruments	...	...	11	10	0
Packages, &c.	...	...	26	15	5
Uniforms and accoutrements	...	...	73	15	0
Total value	...	...	21,978	14	5

EXPORTS FROM NORTHERN NIGERIA for the half year ending 31st December, 1906.

Article.	July.		August.		September.		October.		November.		December.		Total.
	Quan- tity.	Value.	Quan- tity.	Value.	Quan- tity.	Value.	Quan- tity.	Value.	Quan- tity.	Value.	Quan- tity.	Value.	
Corn tons	5	£ 7 2 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	£ 7 2 0
Cotton seeds lbs.	2,240	2 10 0	10	37 0 0	—	—	212,339	1,579 5 1	22,904	20 9 0	41,837	36 19 0	1,676 3 1
Ground nuts cwt.	111	44 8 0	1,357	541 13 0	784	413 2 0	234	83 15 6	523	210 0 6	884	357 17 6	1,663 16 6
Ivory lbs.	1,322	429 12 0	1,392	333 18 0	1,029	309 16 3	83	25 2 6	562	181 15 7	—	—	1,230 4 4
Kola nuts tons	1	39 6 6	31,726	90 2 9	—	—	—	—	—	—	Pks. 12	4 2 6	133 11 9
Palm kernels tons	208	2,079 19 5	839	6,294 11 10	283	2,969 9 6	191	1,521 18 5	280	2,819 8 6	74	778 0 9	16,493 8 5
Goods unenumerated. ..	30	847 11 9	5,737	759 9 11	281	883 8 0	805	1,340 6 6	963	1,119 7 6	1,644	329 0 7	5,279 4 9
Goods unenumerated foreign	—	—	—	—	88	159 13 0	16	19 15 0	34	167 5 0	—	—	346 18 0
Rubber lbs.	37,209 5	3,052 13 7	156,437	11,396 18 3	80,126	4,171 10	120,050	6,366 2 11	110,225	5,712 1 1	52,454	3,614 15 11	34,344 0 9
Beads	2	12 11 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	60 0 0	72 11 6
Cotton goods pcks.	3	13 10 4	—	—	1	25 0 0	26	109 9 0	22	90 15 0	42	206 2 6	444 16 10
Hardware and cutlery ..	1	0 15 0	—	—	—	—	3	38 0 0	41	12 10 0	2	14 0 0	65 5 0
Kerosene.. .. imp. gal.	8 3	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 0 0
Provisions	51	68 2 0	—	—	—	—	59	38 17 0	9	20 18 0	234	321 12 10	449 9 10
Specie commercial	3	3,223 17 3	—	161 16 9	2	1,372 4 6	—	—	5	1,537 10 0	—	—	6,395 8 6
Beniseed lbs.	—	—	800	4 0 0	89,207	312 0 6	61,928	187 7 7	162,110	507 3 7	6,706	20 19 0	1,031 10 8
Cotton, raw lbs.	—	—	4,059	125 0 6	—	—	58,171	2,258 0 0	88,855	1,365 6 0	11,570	446 0 0	4,663 6 6
Gums lbs.	—	—	—	—	71,250	540 15 0	338,993	2,412 1 6	396	5 5 0	224	3 10 0	3,859 2 4
Gum, Arabic cwt.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	174,397	1,482 18 0	—	—	1,462 18 0
Shea nuts tons	—	—	139	2,753 0 0	331	6,6 2 12 0	628	12,266 11 6	556 5	9,890 8 2	106	2,134 16 0	33,667 7 8
Capsicums lbs.	—	—	—	—	84	0 11 3	—	—	414	2 15 0	—	—	3 6 3
Shea butter tons	—	—	—	—	52	730 6 6	1	9 7 0	14	191 11 9	21	132 5 0	1,063 10 3
Aërated waters .. doz.	—	—	—	—	50	10 10 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	10 10 0

EXPORTS from NORTHERN NIGERIA for the half year ending 31st December, 1906—*continued*.

Article.	July.		August.		September.		October.		November.		December.		Total.
	Quan- tity.	Value, £ s. d.	Quan- tity.	Value, £ s. d.	Quan- tity.	Value, £ s. d.	Quan- tity.	Value, £ s. d.	Quan- tity.	Value, £ s. d.	Quan- tity.	Value, £ s. d.	
Books printed	—	—	—	—	1	9 10 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	£ 9 10 0
Furniture	—	—	—	—	7	52 10 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	52 10 0
Haberdashery	—	—	—	—	1	1 0 0	14	46 0 0	—	—	—	—	47 0 0
Musical instruments ..	—	—	—	—	2	15 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	15 0 0
Machinery	—	—	—	—	2	10 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	10 0 0
Wearing apparel	—	—	—	—	4	12 10 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	12 10 0
Bags and sacks .. pks.	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	7 0 0	—	—	—	—	7 0 0
Building material .. pks.	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	107 15 0	5	2 0 0	—	—	109 15 0
Ale, beer, &c. .. doz. qts.	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	21 0 0	—	—	28	42 15 0	63 15 0
Ale, beer, &c. .. doz. pts.	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	42 0 0	—	—	—	—	42 0 0
Cigars No.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,400	7 4 0	—	—	1,500	15 0 0	23 4 0
Cigarettes No.	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,500	7 10 0	—	—	—	—	7 10 0
Coopers' stores .. pks.	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	80 0 0	17	9 2 6	—	—	89 2 6
Glassware pks.	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1 12 8	—	—	—	—	1 12 8
Fresh provisions	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2 0 0	—	—	—	—	2 0 0
other goods pks.	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6 0 0	1	12 10 0	—	—	18 10 0
Spirits, liquors imp. gals.	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	18 0 0	—	—	—	—	18 0 0
Stationery pks.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1 0 0	—	—	—	—	1 0 0
Tobacco, manufactured lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	0 3 9	—	—	—	—	0 3 9
Wines, claret gals.	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	21 0 0	—	—	—	—	21 0 0
Wines, other kinds .. gals.	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1 0 0	16	19 4 0	—	—	20 4 0
fibre pks.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0 16 0	—	—	0 16 0
Chemicals and drugs .. pks.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5 5 0	5 5 0
Oil beans lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	89	0 12 9	—	—	0 12 9
Oil wood gals.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	220	11 0 0	1	10 0 0	21 0 0
Perfumery pks.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1 3 4	1 3 4
Earthenware pks.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3 10 0	1	3 0 0	6 10 0
Spirits, gin and Geneva gals.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	23 14 0	23 14 0
Total £	—	9,932 19 4	—	23,396 0 1	—	18,654 14 9	—	24,655 5 5	—	25,986 2 11	—	8,559 18 11	115,165 1 5

APPENDIX II.

RETURN for 1906 of MERCHANT VESSELS *Entered* at the Port of Lokoja.

Name of Vessel.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	No. of times Entered.	Tonnage.	Total Tonnage for Year.
1. Egga ..	1	—	7	5	4	6	2	1	1	1	2	—	32	16	512
2. Empire ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	372	372
3. Gurara ..	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	17	37	629
4. Kaduna ..	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	2	1	2	27	85	2,295
5. Karonga ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	40	40
6. Liberty ..	2	2	2	3	—	1	3	2	2	3	3	—	25	372	9,300
7. Ndoni ..	2	2	2	3	2	1	3	1	2	1	3	—	24	85	2,040
8. Nkissi ..	2	2	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	3	2	—	20	85	1,700
9. Nupe ..	1	2	2	2	—	1	2	1	1	1	—	—	15	126	1,890
10. Rattler ..	3	2	3	—	4	2	3	6	6	3	6	—	42	14	588
11. Yola ..	4	2	—	4	4	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	20	38	760
12. Wasp ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	6
13. Scarbrough ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	3	2	—	1	12	468	5,616
14. Swale ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	110	330
15. Soudan ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	5	152	760
16. Ribago ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	3	441	1,323
17. Brunhilde ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1,367	1,367
18. Diana ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1,208	1,208
19. Halstead ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	2	—	6	131	788
20. Sarota ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	231	231
21. Yakoba ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	249	249
Total ..	18	21	23	21	18	20	23	23	29	24	21	17	258	—	32,002

RETURN for 1906 of MERCHANT VESSELS *Cleared* at the Port of Lokoja.

Name of Vessel.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	No. of times Cleared.	Tonnage.	Total Tonnage for Year.
1. Egga ..	2	1	7	5	4	5	2	1	2	—	2	2	33	16	528
2. Empire ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	372	372
3. Gurara ..	—	4	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	5	3	—	19	37	703
4. Kaduna ..	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	2	1	2	28	85	2,380
5. Karonga ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Liberty ..	2	2	2	2	—	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	22	372	8,184
7. Ndoni ..	2	2	2	3	2	1	3	1	3	1	3	2	24	85	2,040
8. Nkissi ..	2	2	2	3	3	—	2	1	3	2	—	—	20	85	1,700
9. Nupe ..	1	1	1	1	—	1	2	1	1	1	1	—	13	126	1,638
10. Rattler ..	3	2	3	—	4	3	3	6	7	4	5	2	41	14	574
11. Yola ..	5	2	—	3	4	1	1	—	—	—	1	2	19	38	722
12. Wasp ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	6
13. Scarbrough ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	3	2	—	—	11	468	5,118
14. Swale ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	110	220
15. Soudan ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	5	152	760
16. Ribago ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	441	1,323
17. Brunhilde ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1,367	1,367
18. Diana ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,208	1,208
19. Halstead ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	—	5	131	655
20. Sarota ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21. Yakoba ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	249	249
Total ..	21	21	22	19	19	16	24	20	33	22	20	13	250	—	29,777

APPENDIX III.

RETURN of SALT liable to duties and the amounts collected thereon during the year ended 31st March, 1906.

Station.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty collected.	Remarks.
	cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Sokoto...	187	109 10 0	14 13 6	Native trade.
Issa ...	215	120 0 0	6 0 0	"
Yellu ...	16	4 6 9	1 11 0	"
Fort Goldie ...	1,294	583 4 6	61 4 6	"
Illo ...	90	45 1 9	9 4 6	"
Ilesha ...	3,336	1,455 18 0	168 16 0	"
Dumjiri ...	1,801	900 10 0	180 8 0	"
Kuka ...	64	32 0 0	6 8 0	"
Ejuli ...	779½	233 16 0	38 19 6	"
Gbebe ...	299½	89 17 0	14 19 6	"
Arotun...	253	101 4 0	12 13 0	"
Egori ...	10,025	2,506 5 0	501 5 0	"
Lokoja...	136,028	34,007 0 0	6,801 8 0	European firms.
Total ...	154,388	40,188 13 0	7,817 10 6	

RETURN of KOLAS liable to duties and the amounts collected thereon during the year ended 31st March, 1906.

Station.	Quantity.	Value.	Duty collected, 2s. per 100 lbs.	Remarks.
	lbs.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Bakundi ...	13,755	333 10 6	38 6 7	
Takum ...	148,460	1,484 19 0	210 2 6	
Fort Goldie ...	2,550	51 0 0	2 11 0	
Illo ...	716,290	19,668 17 6	716 12 0	
Ilesha ...	3,690	65 17 6	3 15 0	
Drunjiri ...	4,050	30 7 6	4 2 0	
Kuka ...	2,200	16 5 0	2 4 0	
Jegga ...	300	6 0 0	0 6 0	
Yola ...	26,769	267 15 0	50 8 0	
Totals ...	918,064	21,924 12 0	1,028 7 1	

RETURN of TIN exported from NORTHERN NIGERIA during the year ended 31st December, 1906.

Period, Quarter ended	Ingots.	Sands.	Total.
	Tons. cwts. lbs.	Tons. cwts. lbs.	Tons. cwts. lbs.
31st March ...	— — —	— — —	— — —
30th June ...	— — —	0 2 25	0 2 25
30th September ...	7 0 101½	0 12 67	7 13 56½
31st December ...	4 2 0	0 7 74	4 9 74
Total ...	11 2 101½	1 2 54	12 5 43½

APPENDIX IV.
ABSTRACT OF REVENUE for the years 1899-1900 to 1906-7.

Heads of Revenue.	1899-1900 (One Quarter). Actual.	1900-1. Actual.	1901-2. Actual.	1902-3. Actual.	1903-4. Actual.	1904-5. Actual.	1905-6. Actual.	1906-7. Actual.
Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue..	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Payments for Specific Services, Fees, &c.	13 17 10	373 0 8	631 0 8	7326 4 2	3929 16 4	68433 5 10	85546 6 0	113447 9 2
Post Office and Telegrams	24 12 0	415 19 3	1333 14 10	2579 18 10	4087 8 5	5872 8 11	6890 5 3	11254 10 7
Interest	—	641 3 0	1333 11 1	2051 5 10	934 12 5	1708 10 0	2672 17 7	5842 13 8
Rents of Government Property	—	26 14 9	23 11 9	35 12 3	—	—	936 2 0	1115 11 3
Miscellaneous	—	—	1 0 0	255 2 0	455 16 8	1779 1 9	1158 16 10	9398 7 1
Rebate from Niger Company	—	781 11 8	1065 1 10	3567 8 10	6463 2 4	1285 18 1	1883 9 2	580 13 11
Repayment by Southern Nigeria for loan of Northern Nigeria Troops.	—	—	—	—	2496 1 8	1367 0 0	1576 14 7	—
Total Local Revenue	38 9 10	2179 14 1	4424 0 2	16315 11 11	53726 17 10	94026 6 0	110544 11 5	142187 6 6
Imperial Grant in Aid	56530 0 0	88800 0 0	280000 0 0	290000 0 0	405000 0 0	405000 0 0	320000 0 0	315000 0 0
Contribution from Southern Nigeria ..	—	44750 0 0	34000 0 0	34000 0 0	50000 0 0	50000 0 0	60000 0 0	75000 0 0
Lagos	—	—	—	—	—	10000 0 0	15000 0 0	—
Deferred Pay and Reward Fund, W.A.F.F.	—	—	—	16693 13 6	—	—	—	—
Total Revenue	56568 9 10	135729 14 1	318424 0 2	357009 5 5	508726 17 10	568526 6 0	505544 11 5	532087 6 6

ABSTRACT OF EXPENDITURE for the years 1899-1900 to 1906-7.

Heads of Expenditure.	1899-1900, Civil only (One Quarter). Actual.	1900-1. Civil only. Actual.	1901-2. Actual.	1902-3. Actual.	1903-4. Actual.	1904-5. Actual.	1905-6. Actual.	1906-7. Actual.
High Commissioner's Office and Govern- ment House.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Political	758 11 8	3858 3 2	3842 18 0	4287 12 8	5264 4 2	6556 15 4	6783 8 5	5706 19 5
Stipends to Chiefs	491 13 11	7470 11 6	11413 14 4	24263 14 2	33852 15 4	44500 9 5	53072 13 1	58045 11 1
Cantonment Magistrates and Freed Slaves Home.	15 0 0	125 5 0	—	—	—	—	4575 3 4	4594 0 0

ABSTRACT OF EXPENDITURE for the years 1899-1900 to 1906-7—*continued*.

Heads of Expenditure.	1899-1900. Civil only. (One Quarter). Actual.		1900-1. Civil only. Actual.		1901-2. Actual.		1902-3. Actual.		1903-4. Actual.		1904-5. Actual.		1905-6. Actual.		1906-7. Actual.	
	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.
Judicial	438	3 11	1,719	17 9	1,796	0 7	2,692	0 10	3,413	16 5	3,394	16 5	2,208	1 1	2,690	9 11
Secretariat and Printing	310	9 8	1,901	8 0	2,145	3 7	2,145	7 3	2,375	7 9	3,174	12 11	—	—	—	—
Treasury	545	14 2	2,983	16 1	3,733	12 8	5,745	7 7	6,319	19 8	9,913	19 3	4,898	17 9	5,293	11 4
Post and Telegraphs	426	2 5	5,530	2 8	5,728	2 8	6,246	5 3	6,246	5 3	7,860	8 9	7,344	5 11	7,397	18 10
Medical	1,255	15 8	6,744	17 8	16,360	2 7	20,327	18 1	22,063	19 2	26,360	8 11	8,553	5 9	12,117	15 2
Printing	71	0 10	391	4 11	956	1 11	1,105	4 1	1,214	13 7	1,435	10 11	27,558	8 1	28,577	5 6
Audit	—	—	508	12 8	832	7 4	859	3 6	1,224	5 11	1,443	14 9	1,844	16 5	1,688	16 0
Police	159	3 0	1,522	18 3	3,696	12 11	5,422	13 6	21,013	4 10	30,668	1 4	33,735	15 2	39,558	6 4
Prisons	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,578	6 7	2,969	8 4	4,647	11 1	4,819	18 3
Steamers and Transport	374	16 0	2,501	0 9	4,197	5 8	4,278	8 1	4,108	16 4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transport	—	—	—	—	192,583	1 8	199,132	18 9	191,445	9 2	3,588	17 11	22,333	16 9	28,472	17 2
West African Frontier Force	—	—	—	—	29,103	2 8	23,897	5 0	28,197	7 0	27,091	10 11	31,636	7 4	168,561	8 0
Marine and Workshops	1,774	6 9	15,756	19 1	—	—	—	—	1,092	12 11	1,463	5 0	3,283	15 8	28,738	1 7
Customs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	592	2 0	2,037	8 5	3,283	4 6	1,568	8 6
Economic Department (Botanical and Forestry).	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,862	12 9	6,174	19 7	—	—	2,907	10 10
Revenue	—	—	5,439	12 2	27,840	10 11	40,885	11 3	52,436	12 1	45,640	10 9	26,448	17 8	25,176	9 6
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	720	0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3rd Battalion	—	—	6,183	2 11	10,014	16 10	12,647	5 1	10,388	8 7	12,145	10 0	14,426	8 6	14,362	12 11
Public Works Department and Recurrent	28	6 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,584	19 0	4,584	19 0	3,227	19 2	5,402	8 8
" " Recurrent	—	—	—	—	42,998	5 2	78,665	15 10	79,866	2 7	94,286	7 0	59,799	15 11	49,348	4 4
" " Extraordinary	30,198	5 4	22,686	15 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Steamers	7	8 2	11,191	12 1	1,383	6 11	6,406	11 5	1,224	18 3	372	10 1	—	—	—	—
Railway Survey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buruta Works	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telegraph Construction, Zaria Extension and Lagos-Jebba Reconstruction, un- derwritten	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Telegraph Construction (Special Vote).. Jebba-Oghomoshu Telegraph Construc- tion.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,376	14 6	36,611	9 3	—	—	—	—
Special Survey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,105	9 7	—	—	—	—
W.A.F.F. Expenditure prior to year 1901-2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	38,045	10 6	96,457	0 0	298,519	6 0	389,391	1 8	498,986	4 10	520,545	11 5	498,259	16 5	498,848	6 7

Zungeru,
14th September, 1907.

J. H. BRATT,
Acting Treasurer.

APPENDIX V.

NOSOLOGICAL RETURN, 1906.

Diseases.	Europeans.					Natives.				
	Remaining at end of 1905.	Yearly Admissions.	Total Deaths.	Total Cases Treated.	Remaining at end of 1906.	Remaining at end of 1905.	Yearly Admissions.	Total Deaths.	Total Cases Treated.	Remaining at end of 1906.
Blackwater fever ..	2	25	5	27	2	—	2	—	2	—
Beri-beri ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—
Cerebro-spinal fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	15	29	—
Chicken-pox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—
Cow-pox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—
Dysentery ..	—	22	—	22	1	5	359	41	364	8
Erysipelas ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	2	—
Gonorrhœa ..	—	—	—	—	—	28	806	—	834	37
Influenza ..	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leprosy ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	16	1
Madura disease ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ..	7	370	4	377	8	4	1,151	3	1,161	7
Measles ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—
Malta fever ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mumps ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—
Phagedæna ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pyæmia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—
Septicæmia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—
Sleeping sickness ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—
Small-pox ..	—	1	—	1	—	6	135	42	140	—
Syphilis ..	—	—	—	—	—	12	397	—	409	15
Tuberculosis ..	—	3	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
Yaws ..	—	—	—	—	—	5	187	—	192	3
Alcoholism ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anæmia ..	1	44	—	45	—	3	189	21	192	8
Gout ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Scurvy ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Parasitic diseases ..	3	—	—	3	—	14	1,319	2	1,333	—
Sunstroke ..	—	11	—	11	—	—	2	1	2	—
Unclassified fevers ..	—	2	2	—	—	1	15	—	16	1
Food Poisoning ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Osteoma ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of nervous system.	—	—	—	—	—	2	265	5	267	—
Neuritis ..	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vertigo ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Headache ..	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neuralgia ..	1	7	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sciatica ..	—	3	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Neurasthenia ..	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of the eye ..	—	—	—	—	—	24	584	—	606	10
Conjunctivitis ..	—	10	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iritis ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of the ear ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	107	—	109	2
Accumulation of wax in ear.	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inflammation of mid- dle ear.	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of the nose:	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inflammation of soft parts.	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disease of the circulatory system.	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	4	50	2
Disordered action of heart.	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of the respira- tory system.	—	—	—	—	—	8	1,046	27	1,054	21
Laryngitis ..	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis ..	18	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hæmorrhage of the lung ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of the digestive system.	—	—	—	—	—	10	2,540	22	2,550	10
Inflammation of the mouth.	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dental caries ..	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Toothache ..	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inflammation of the tongue.	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

Nosological Return—cont.

Diseases,	Europeans.					Natives.				
	Remaining at end of 1905.	Yearly Admissions.	Total Deaths.	Total Cases Treated.	Remaining at end of 1906.	Remaining at end of 1906.	Yearly Admissions.	Total Deaths.	Total Cases Treated.	Remaining at end of 1906.
Diseases of the digestive system— <i>cont.</i>										
Sore throat	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inflammation of the tonsils	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inflammation of the pharynx	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inflammation of the stomach	—	21	—	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
Indigestion	—	24	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis	—	14	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colitis	—	4	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	—	35	—	35	1	—	—	—	—	—
Constipation	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colic	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fissure of the anus ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Piles	—	7	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inflammation of the liver	1	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abscess of the liver ..	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hyperamia of the liver	—	9	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jaundice	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of the lym- phatic system.	—	—	—	—	—	9	259	—	268	13
Splenitis	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inflammation of the lymphatic glands.	—	6	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inflammation of the lymphatic vessels.	1	6	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of the genito- urinary system.	—	—	—	—	—	4	184	3	186	2
Acute Nephritis	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inflammation of the bladder	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Retention of urine ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peri urethral abscess ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phimosis	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hydrocele	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hæmatocele	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orchitis	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Epididymitis	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Diseases of the organs of locomotion.	—	—	—	—	—	—	134	1	134	—
Synovitis	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Myalgia	—	26	—	26	2	9	908	2	917	13
Diseases of the connec- tive tissue.	—	—	—	—	—	15	710	1	725	13
Inflammation	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abscess	—	10	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of the skin ..	—	—	—	—	—	23	1,086	—	1,109	45
Urticaria	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scabies	—	10	—	10	1	—	—	—	—	—
Boil	—	24	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carbuncle	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dermatitis	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scabies	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sebaceous cyst	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prickly heat	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Alopecia	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitlow	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases of the skin	—	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Injuries	2	50	—	52	1	59	3,476	29	3,535	55
Dislocation of humerus	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dislocation of fingers ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wounds in action	—	10	3	10	—	—	99	38	99	—
Undefined	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5	—
No appreciable disease..	—	1	—	1	—	—	4	—	4	—
Uncertified	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	15	885	17	900	18	242	16,098	282	16,340	293

APPENDIX VI.

POPULATION, exclusive of Persons in Government employ.

District.	Natives.			Non-Natives.					
	Males.	Females.	Total	Europeans.			Coloured.		
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Kabba	18,420	19,081	37,501	29	2	31	101	30	131
Egbirra, &c. ..	24,186	28,133	52,319	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lokoja	6,390	7,566	13,956	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kotonkarifi ..	6,731	8,069	14,800	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	55,727	62,849	118,576	29	2	31	101	30	131
Ilorin	32,011	49,322	81,333	6	4	10	—	—	—
Nupe	21,511	30,046	51,557	—	—	—	—	—	—
Igbona	17,132	26,013	43,145	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yagba	1,624	2,279	3,903	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	72,318	107,660	179,978	6	4	10	—	—	—
Muri	214,932	285,869	500,801	18	1	19	13	1	14
Bassa	253,075	272,075	525,150	3	0	3	7	2	9
Yola	35,000	35,000	70,000	3	0	3	6	0	6
Bassemas ..	4,800	6,200	11,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Battas	5,000	7,000	12,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gongola	2,100	2,900	5,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mumuyes ..	6,300	8,700	15,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kilba	4,200	5,800	10,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other tribes ..	28,788	33,212	62,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	86,188	98,812	185,000	3	0	3	6	0	6
Kano district ..	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Katsena district ..	250,000	250,000	500,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daura and ..	12,000	12,000	24,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kazuri	95,000	95,000	190,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gummel and ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Katagum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1,357,000	1,357,000	2,714,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sokoto	200,000	215,074	415,074	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gano	41,992	49,662	91,654	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jega	9,600	8,200	17,800	—	—	—	—	—	—
Argungu	16,971	19,799	36,770	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	268,563	292,735	561,298	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zaria	98,000	132,000	230,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kontagora	17,699	15,473	33,172	—	—	—	1	—	1
Yelwa	11,610	12,147	23,757	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sakaba	11,498	11,755	23,253	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	40,807	39,375	80,182	—	—	—	1	—	1
Nupe, No. 1 division ..	37,131	57,120	94,251	3	—	3	15	10	25
Nupe, No. 2 division ..	16,697	16,698	33,395	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nupe, No. 3 division ..	7,965	7,965	15,930	1	—	1	3	2	5
Total	61,793	81,783	143,576	4	—	4	18	12	30

Population—cont.

District	Natives			Non-Natives.					
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Europeans.			Coloured.		
				Males.	Fe- males.	Total.	Fe- males.	Males.	Total.
Bauchi	200,000	200,000	400,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gombe	30,000	30,000	60,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Semi Moslems ..	30,000	30,000	60,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pagans	200,000	200,000	400,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	460,000	460,000	920,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nassarawa ..	25,000	25,850	50,850	2	—	2	1	—	1
Keffi	17,905	15,150	33,055	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lafia	5,080	7,729	12,809	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jemma - n - Dar oro.	50,500	71,000	121,500	—	—	—	1	—	1
Abuja	5,800	7,000	12,800	—	—	—	—	—	—
Munshis and other un- known Pa- gans.	175,000	195,000	370,000	—	—	—	3	—	3
Total	279,285	321,720	601,005	2	—	2	5	—	5
Bussa	6,020	5,436	11,456	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kalama	2,249	2,366	4,615	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leaba	142	183	325	—	—	—	1	—	1
Laoji	1,177	1,227	2,404	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lebaga	795	778	1,571	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gomba	544	500	1,044	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gendenni ..	231	227	458	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	11,158	10,715	21,873	—	—	—	1	—	1
Eastern Bornu -									
Brahim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Christians ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mohammedan, Kanuri, Arabs,	64,000	90,000	154,000	—	—	—	4	3	7
PaganGameru, &c.	600	1,000	1,600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southern Bornu—									
Christians ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mohammedan ..	1,000	1,000	2,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pagan	18,000	21,000	39,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
North-Western—									
Christians ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mohammedan, KanuriFulani.	37,230	65,380	102,610	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pagans Bedde Nzezimi.	12,000	18,000	30,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
South-Western—									
Christians ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mohammedan ..	7,493	9,979	17,472	—	—	—	—	—	—
KanuriFulani, Pagans (Biu, Babur, Tera, Kenkeri, Gamaawa.)	23,096	33,539	56,635	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	163,424	239,898	403,322	—	—	—	4	6	10
Grand Total	3,422,260	3,742,491	7,164,751	—	—	—	—	—	—

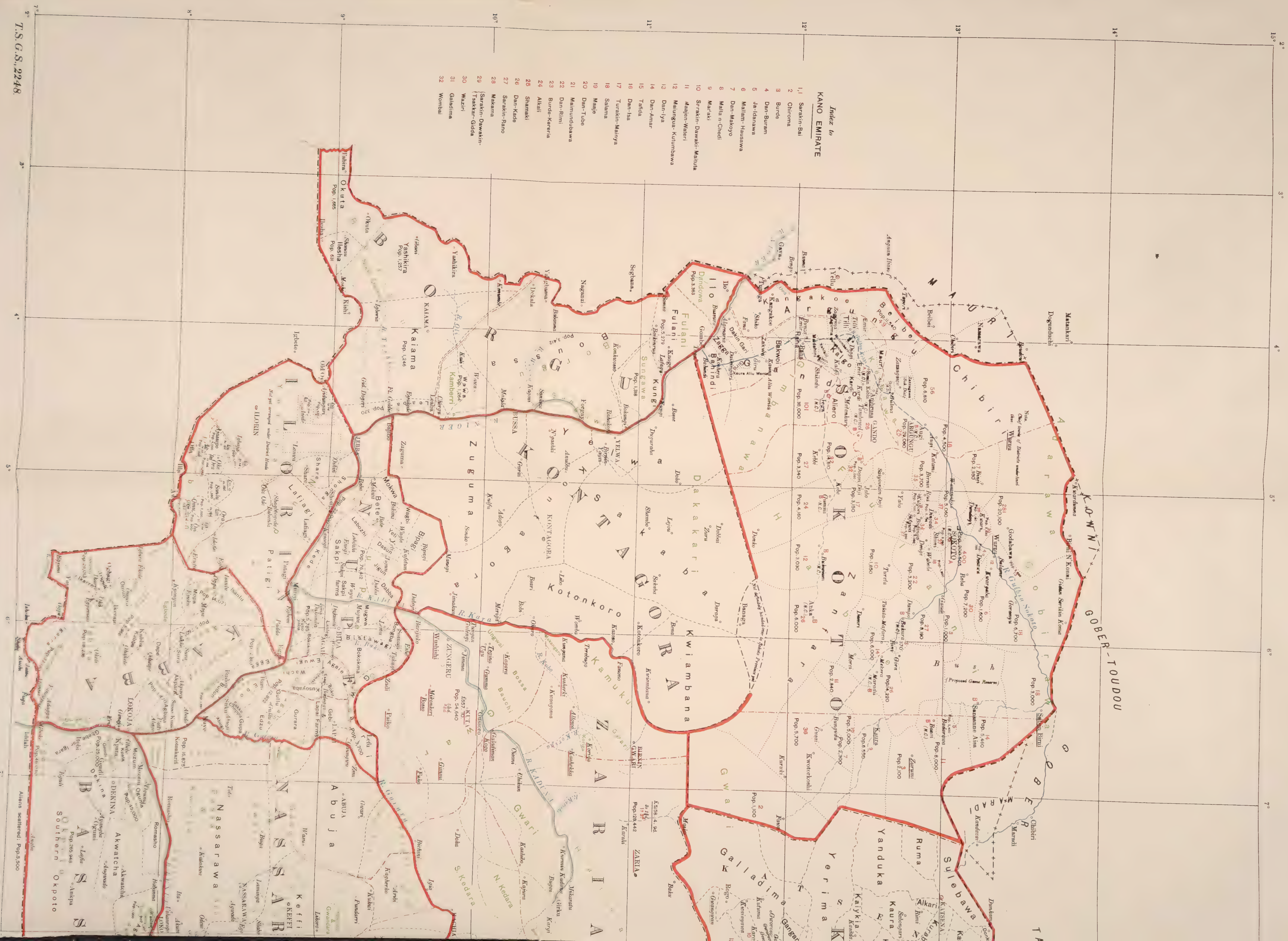
SUMMARY OF POPULATION.

Natives.

Province.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Kabba	55,727	62,849	118,576
Ilorin	72,318	107,660	179,978
Muri	214,932	285,869	500,801
Bassa	253,075	272,075	525,150
Yola... ..	86,188	98,812	185,000
Kano	1,357,000	1,357,000	2,714,000
Sokoto	268,563	292,735	561,298
Zaria	98,000	132,000	230,000
Kontagora	40,807	39,375	80,182
Nupe	61,783	61,783	123,566
Bauchi	460,000	460,000	920,000
Nassarawa	279,285	321,720	600,005
Borgu	11,158	10,715	21,873
Bornu	163,424	239,898	403,322
Grand Total ...	3,422,260	3,742,491	7,164,751

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41	East Africa Protectorate	Report on Kenia Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1905-6.
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44	East Africa Protectorate	Survey Department.

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1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 554.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR 1906.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 512.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
February, 1908.



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1908.

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No. 554.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 512.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Lagos,
Southern Nigeria,
21st October, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the usual report on this Colony and Protectorate for the year 1906, the preparation of which was considerably delayed by changes in the staff of the Secretariat.

2. The year was one of exceptional prosperity, which has, I am glad to say, been fully maintained during the current year.

I have, &c.,

J. J. THORBURN,
Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Elgin, P.C., K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

I.—FINANCIAL.

REVENUE.

1. The year 1906 was a record one for trade and revenue. The total sum collected amounted to £1,088,717, which exceeded the original estimate by £64,055 and was £136,968 more than the revenue for the year 1905. Four-fifths of this revenue was derived from Customs duties—a specific duty on seventeen articles of import, and an ad valorem duty of 10 per centum on the value of most other imports.

The amount collected—£1,088,717—places the Colony and Protectorate, as regards revenue, in the premier position of the British Colonies on the West Coast of Africa.

2. The revenue contributions from the Provinces towards the total collected, compared with the collections for 1905, were as follows:—

—				1906.	1905.	Increase.
				£	£	£
i. Western Province	...	...		424,862	379,684	45,178
ii. Central Province	...	...		213,580	572,065	91,790
iii. Eastern Province	...	...		450,275		
Total	...	...		1,088,717	951,749	136,968

From this it will be seen that the increase in revenue over 1905 was general to all the Provinces; and of the total increase of £136,968 the Western Province contributed £45,178, and the Central and Eastern Provinces (the old Protectorate of Southern Nigeria) £91,790. Detailed particulars of increases and decreases under each head of revenue, as compared with the previous year, are given in paragraph 6.

3. Of the total revenue collected—£1,088,717—Customs duties contributed £885,858 (as compared with £860,000 originally estimated and £799,112 for the previous year), or 81·4 per cent. of the whole:—

—				Revenue.		Per cent.
				Total.	Customs.	
				£	£	
i. Western Province	...	...		424,862	281,381	66·2
ii. Central Province	...	...		213,580	186,905	87·5
iii. Eastern Province	...	...		450,275	417,572	92·7
Total	...	...		1,088,717	885,858	81·4

The lower percentage of Customs revenue to the whole in the Western Province is explained by its large receipts under "Railway" (£84,842) and "Interest" (£22,452) which were not enjoyed by the other Provinces. The percentage of Customs duties to the whole revenue in 1905, for all Provinces, was 84 per cent., which shows a satisfactory tendency in 1906 to development in sources of revenue other than Customs, towards which Head 3, "Licences" (increase over 1905 £1,317), Head 4, "Fees, &c." (increase over 1905 £22,507), Head 5, "Postal Revenue" (increase over 1905 £3,925), Head 6, "Interest" (increase over 1905 £10,246), and Head 9, "Railway Receipts" (increase over 1905 £10,456) principally contributed.

4. Of the total Customs receipts—£885,858—specific duties contributed £754,888 and ad valorem duties £130,970, against £662,124 and £130,799 respectively for 1905, as follows:—

	Year.				Increase + Decrease —
	1906.		1905.		
	Quantity.	Duty.	Quantity.	Duty.	
Specific Duties:—					
On Spirits (gallons)	3,321,903	£ 600,784	2,776,396	£ 504,025	+ 96,759
.. Salt... .. (cwts.)	547,820	26,963	550,210	27,877	— 914
.. Tobacco (lbs.)	5,956,198	82,479	4,280,020	71,120	+ 11,359
.. Kerosene (gallons)	1,067,007	8,823	947,809	8,186	+ 687
.. Other Articles	—	35,839	—	50,963	— 15,127
Total Specific ...	—	754,888	—	662,124	+ 92,764
Ad valorem Duties:—					
On Cottons (packages)	44,003	75,654	36,695	83,487	— 7,833
.. Earthenware	6,040	1,488	2,043	1,646	— 158
.. Hardware	144,015	6,971	177,540	7,557	— 586
.. Provisions	68,120	6,917	42,175	7,030	— 113
.. Rice (cwt.)	112,051	4,411	114,478	4,289	+ 122
.. Silk Goods (packages)	2,354	5,998	1,234	3,160	+ 2,838
.. Soap	181,727	2,237	141,753	1,662	+ 575
.. Wearing Apparel	5,556	5,905	4,451	5,154	+ 751
.. Woollens	1,190	1,712	850	1,721	— 9
.. Other Articles	—	19,677	—	15,093	+ 4,584
Total Ad valorem ...	—	130,970	—	130,799	+ 171
Export Duty on Timber ...	—	Nil	—	6,189	— 6,189
Total Receipts ...	—	885,858	—	799,112	+ 86,746

The estimated receipts from Customs duties for 1906 were:—

Specific duties	£716,400
Ad valorem duties	143,600
Total	£860,000

against £885,858 actually received. The specific duties received were £38,488 more than anticipated, whereas the ad valorem duties fell £12,630 short of the estimate, a nett gain over the estimates of £25,858.

5. From the foregoing table it will be seen that the increase of £86,746 in Customs receipts over 1905 was mainly due to the large increased quantities of spirits and unmanufactured tobacco taken into consumption during the year. The increase in the Customs tariff on spirits—from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* a gallon—did not come into force until the 22nd December, 1906, so that little benefit to the revenue from the increased rate of duty would be felt during the year under review.

6. The following statement shows the actual revenue received under the various heads in 1906, as compared with the years 1904 and 1905, with notes explanatory of the increases or decreases:—

Item.	Head of Revenue.	1904.	1905.	1906.	Remarks explanatory of the increase or decrease between 1905 and 1906.
1	Customs Duties	£ 773,537	£ 799,112	£ 885,858	Increased Imports—principally Spirits and Tobacco—liable to Customs duties.
2	Harbour, &c., Lighthouse Dues ...	1,542	1,698	1,431	The larger receipts for 1905 were due to payment of arrears of previous years.
3	Licences and Internal Revenue, &c. ..	14,419	17,711	19,028	Increased receipts generally under all sub-heads, especially under Liquor Licences and Transport services.
4	Fees of Court or Office, payments, Specific Services, &c., Re-imbursements in aid.	16,277	24,621	47,128	Larger sales by Government Departments and increased receipts, Electric Light, Sales of Ice, &c., and refunds by Native Courts. The new sub-head of "Fees Forestry Department" realised over £12,000.
5	Postal Revenue	7,594	7,915	11,840	Larger sales for new Telegraph services and general increase in correspondence.
6	Rent of Government Property ...	483	1,705	563	In 1905 receipts for "Sales of Crown Lands" were wrongly credited to this head. See Head 10 "Land Sales."
7	Interest	5,125	15,391	25,637	Loan Funds placed at interest. Fund to Revenue
8	Miscellaneous... ..	8,957	8,724	10,730	Transfer of "Ivy" Repair account in 1906.
9	Railway and Tramway	59,004	74,386	84,842	General increase in Traffic.
10	Land Sales	1,198	485	1,660	See note against Head 6, Receipts properly classified in 1906.
	Total	888,136	951,748	1,088,717	

EXPENDITURE—(1) From revenue.

7. The total actual expenditure for all Provinces, met from revenue, was £1,056,290, against £1,034,035 originally estimated, and £998,561 for the previous year. The Provincial expenditure was as follows:—

Province.	1905.	1906.		Comparison.	
	Actual.	Estimated	Actual.	Actual 1906 v. Actual 1905.	Actual 1906 v. Estimated 1906.
	£	£	£	£	£
Western ...	414,633	406,235	450,383	+35,750	+44,148
Central } Eastern }	583,928	627,800	{ 146,937 458,970 }	{ +21,979 }	—21,893
Total ...	998,561	1,034,035	1,056,290	+57,729	+22,255

9. Included in the Extraordinary expenditure in paragraph four heads of (a) Personal Emoluments, (b) Other Charges, (c) Railway, and (d) Extraordinary Expenditure—was as follows:—

Head.	Year.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1905.	1906.		
	£	£	£	£
(a) Personal Emoluments ...	335,617	382,337	46,720	—
(b) Other Charges ...	331,621	366,236	34,615	—
(c) Railway and Tramway	60,417	61,408	991	—
	727,655	809,981	82,326	—
(d) Extraordinary Expenditure (including contributions to Northern Nigeria).	270,906	246,309	—	24,597
Total ...	998,561	1,056,290	82,326	24,597

Nett increase 1906, £57,729.

9. Included in the Extraordinary expenditure in paragraph 8 is a sum of £75,000, which was contributed by Southern Nigeria in 1906 towards the expenditure of Northern Nigeria by order of the Secretary of State. The contribution has been decreased to £71,250, payable during the calendar year 1907.

10. The following statement shows the actual expenditure incurred under the various heads in 1906, as compared with the years 1904 and 1905, with notes explanatory of the increases or decreases:—

Item.	Head of Expenditure.	1904.	1905.	1906.	Remarks explanatory of Increase or Decrease.
1	Charge on account of Public Debt...	£ 55,008	£ 57,945	£ 70,083	Increased loan.
2	Pensions and Gratitudes ...	7,841	9,172	12,052	Increased in pension list and gratuities.
3	Governor's Office ...	8,792	7,769	9,423	Purchase of motor car and motor bicycle.
4	Colonial Secretariat ...	8,810	9,608	12,075	Increased establishment and duty pay.
5	Political and Administrative ...	45,564	58,310	66,569	Increased establishment and duty pay for new territories brought under effective control. See "Saving" under Head 6.
6	Judicial ...	13,129	9,929	9,195	Transfer of District Commissioners to Head 5 in 1906.
7	Legal and Registration ...	2,033	2,033	2,610	Increased salaries and duty pay.
8	Treasury and Customs ...	25,373	31,724	33,086	Reorganization on amalgamation and extra Staff for increased trade.
9	Postal ...	—	—	—	{ Increased telegraph communication, 1906.
10	Telegraphs ...	10,625	11,449	17,890	
11	Audit ...	3,012	3,189	5,351	
12	Printing ...	3,950	5,279	6,841	Increased establishment for more efficient local audit.
13	West African Frontier Force ...	89,891	90,609	84,169	Increased establishment and plant
14	Marine ...	78,770	81,666	92,195	Savings on establishment and less expenditure on other charges.
15	Civil Police ...	25,398	29,198	31,411	Increased establishment and number of craft maintained.
16	Prisons ...	19,711	21,822	22,179	Increased establishment.
17	Forestry and Agriculture ...	12,152	16,124	17,401	Casual.
18	Medical ...	37,902	42,774	45,610	Increased establishment and quantity of seeds, &c. for distribution.
19	Sanitary ...	5,429	4,137	2,613	Increased expenditure on personal emoluments and on Hospitals, &c.
20	Native Affairs ...	12,844	9,344	8,964	Western Province expenditure for 1906, shewn under Public Works Department Head.
21	Education ...	6,697	9,947	12,520	Casual.
22	Surveys ...	1,870	3,246	9,236	Increased number of Schools.
22a	Mineral Survey ...	—	—	1,969	See Head 23 for 1906. Real increase £699 on personal emoluments and for new map.
23	Lands ...	3,515	4,291	Included in 22.	Casual.
	Carried forward ...	478,366	519,570	573,442	See note against Head 22—"Surveys."

Item.	Head of Expenditure.	1904.	1905.	1906.	Remarks explanatory of Increase or Decrease.
		£	£	£	
24	Brought forward ...	478,366	519,570	573,442	Casual.
25	Laboratory ...	682	658	636	Casual.
26	Rent ...	998	966	1,013	Casual.
27	Charitable ...	303	416	325	Casual.
	Transport ...	25,514	31,583	35,167	Increase in expenditure on "Passages of Officers, &c." for increased Staff and in general carriers for opening up country.
28	Contribution to Northern Nigeria...	57,500	78,750	75,000	Determined by Secretary of State.
29	Miscellaneous Services ...	38,380	47,206	48,627	Increased expenditure on Expeditionary Works, Telegrams, &c.
30	Public Works Department ...	25,755	30,000	34,845	Increased establishment. See also note against Head 19 "Sanitary."
31	Roads Construction ...	—	—	1,903	New Head on development of policy of general road improvement.
32	Works and Buildings Annually Re-current.	29,518	35,521	51,217	Increase in standard stocks of materials and stores.
33	Roads and Bridges Annually Re-current.	—	818	1,397	More roads to be maintained. See Head 31.
34	Railway ...	—	—	59,181	Casual.
35	Tramway ...	53,795	60,417	1,539	Casual.
36	Carter and Denton Bridges...	—	—	689	Casual.
37	Works and Buildings Extraordinary	153,106	153,878	123,102	Less works undertaken.
38	Roads and Bridges Extraordinary...	—	2,874	15,899	New roads and bridges on development of policy of general road improvement.
39	Telegraphs Extraordinary ...	—	17,894	11,204	Less works undertaken on partial completion of telegraph communication.
40	Marine Extraordinary ...	—	18,011	21,104	New Craft.
	Totals ...	863,917	998,564	1,056,290	

EXPENDITURE—(2) From Loan Funds.

11. The amount of expenditure incurred during the year and chargeable to loan funds totalled £262,343, all of which was on account of railway extension. This amount increased the total sum expended by the Colony and Protectorate on railway construction, to the 31st December, 1906, to £1,677,756, out of a total loan raised of £2,000,000 (which realized £1,889,252), leaving a balance of £211,495 available for future expenditure.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

12. In the following statement the financial position of the Colony and Protectorate is set out in detail. It will be seen that on the 31st December, 1906, the assets exceeded the liabilities by the sum of £475,497, which is £32,427 more than on the corresponding day of the previous year, when the excess assets stood at £443,070. The improved financial position over 1905 of £32,427 represents the excess revenue over expenditure for the year 1906, as shown in the following balance sheet:—

COLONY AND PROTECTORATE OF SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st December, 1906.

Liabilities.	Amount.			Assets.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Deposits due by the Colony and Protectorate :—				Balances of the undermentioned Accounts :—			
Western Province—				Local Cash Account—			
Savings Bank	28,015	8	8	Treasury Chests, Western Province	31,952	4	7
Bank of British West Africa	10,000	0	0	Do. with Bank of British West Africa.	33,613	4	5
Railway	5,766	6	2	Treasury Chests, Central Province	12,453	11	6
Miscellaneous	28,063	19	4	Treasury Chests, Eastern Province.	30,779	13	2
Central Province—Miscellaneous ...	17,693	9	10				
Eastern Province—Miscellaneous ...	39,229	8	0				
					108,798	13	8
Drafts and Remittances :—				Crown Agents Cash Account ...	15,772	8	5
Western Province	886	16	4				
Eastern Province	3	2	3	Advances due to the Colony and Protectorate :—	124,571	2	1
				Western Province—Railway, Open Lines.			
Loan Account.—Unexpended Balance				Ibadan—Oshogbo Extension	3,464	11	8
Sinking and Depreciation Funds :—				Accounts.	36,257	14	4
Coin Repatriation Fund	679	12	5	Oshogbo—Ilorin Survey ...	4,509	15	11
Yacht "Ivy" Depreciation Fund ...	19,995	1	1	Ilorin—Jebba Survey ...	1,660	14	9
				Zungeru Survey ...	23	4	10
				Dredger, Lagos Bar ...	22	14	6
				Eastern Mole ...	2	0	0
					45,940	16	0

Total Liabilities Excess of Assets over Liabilities	361,828 12 8 475,497 1 6		Miscellaneous Central Province—Miscellaneous ... Eastern Province—Miscellaneous ...	28,190 15 6 8,205 4 6 14,860 18 10	97,197 14 10
Total	837,325 14 2		Remittances to Crown Agents :— (Eastern and Central Provinces) in transit and uncollected.	24,795 3 7	
			Remittances between Chests :— In transit (Eastern and Central Provinces) ... £3,950 12 5 In transit (Western Province) ... 6,552 7 10	10,503 0 3	35,298 3 10
			Investments :— Surplus Funds Loan Funds (advanced to Crown Agents and on Deposit).	122,248 16 11 404,985 3 0	
			Bank of British West Africa ... Savings Bank Coin Repatriation Fund ... Yacht "Ivy" Depreciation Fund ...	527,233 19 11 10,000 0 0 22,350 0 0 679 12 5 19,995 1 1	580,258 13 5
			Total Assets	837,325 14 2	

NOTE.—Total liability on loans issued £2,000,000 (which realised £1,889,251 15s. 8d.), of which £211,495 8s. 7d. was unspent on 31st December, 1906.

A Statement showing description and amount of appropriated Funds invested on the 31st December, 1906, and not included in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the Protectorate on the same date.

Description of Investment.	Amount of Stock.	Actual Price.	Market value on 31st December, 1906.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Police Officers' Guarantee Fund.	3,275 11 0	3,200 0 0	3,185 11 0
Total	3,275 11 0	3,200 0 0	3,185 11 0

Loans.

13. The total indebtedness of the Colony and Protectorate on the 31st December, 1906, on account of the loans issued was £2,000,000, which is not taken into account in the statement of assets and liabilities as shown in the previous paragraph. This loan realized £1,889,252, which was available, and has been mostly expended, for railway construction and bridges in connection therewith.

Considerable further expenditure has been authorized in 1907 on railway extension and other works.

Progress.

14. The comparison of the actual results for the year 1906 has so far only been made with the figures for the year 1905. If the comparison is extended and a retrospect taken for the past ten years the rapid development of the revenue of Southern Nigeria becomes still more marked, and exhibits a period of uninterrupted prosperity and advancement. Diagram 1, Appendix A, shows the actual revenue and expenditure since 1896, from which it will be seen that the revenue has more than trebled itself in the past seven years.

CURRENCY AND BANKING.

15. British coins are the legal tender, and circulate freely throughout the Western Province and in the older established portions of the Eastern and Central Provinces—the smaller silver coins being especially in demand. In the territories more recently brought under effective control in the Eastern and Central Provinces British coins are still looked upon with suspicion, and the currency remains in a transition stage. The question of a uniform subsidiary currency for Northern and Southern Nigeria has recently been under consideration,

and a coinage of nickel bronze pennies and aluminium one-tenths of a penny has been approved as being suitable to local requirements, and will shortly be put into circulation.

16. Brass rods, wires, manillas, and cowries are used as currency by the natives, and are accepted as legal tender in those parts of the country in which they have in the past been current. The exchange is regulated by law, and, further importations having been prohibited, they will as a medium of exchange in time be ousted by the new subsidiary coinage.

17. The Bank of British West Africa, with a capital of £250,000, has for some years been established in Lagos, the headquarters of the Western Province, and transacts the banking business of the Government; but adequate banking facilities are still absent in the other Provinces of the Colony and Protectorate. It is obvious that in this large revenue-producing Colony banking facilities at the headquarters of the Eastern and Central Provinces, having a joint revenue of £660,000, are urgently required.

LEGISLATION AFFECTING REVENUE AND TRADE.

18. On 1st January, 1906, the use of Tralles' Alcoholometer was substituted for that of Sykes' Hydrometer in ascertaining the strength of spirits—a strength of fifty degrees Tralles being considered as equivalent to a strength of $12\frac{1}{2}$ degrees under-proof Sykes, and other strengths in proportion. The duty was fixed at 3s. 6d. for every imperial gallon imported not exceeding a strength of 50 degrees Tralles, and for stronger spirits an additional duty of $\frac{7}{8}$ d. for each degree of strength on each gallon was charged.

19. By Order No. 5 of 1906, made under the Customs Ordinance, 1894, the rates of rent charged in Lagos on goods in the King's Warehouse were applied to Calabar and Forcados.

20. By Ordinance No. 16 of 1906 the Customs Tariff Ordinance was amended, and a duty of 4s. for every imperial gallon substituted for the duty of 3s. 6d., and an additional duty of 1d. in place of the additional $\frac{7}{8}$ d. This Ordinance did not, however, come into force until the 22nd December last.

21. The Niger Navigation Order in Council, 1903, was amended by the addition of a regulation providing that steam vessels on the Niger should slow down when approaching canoes to avoid accident and possible loss of life.

22. In September the Spirit Receptacle Ordinance, regulating the vessels and receptacles in which spirits may be imported, was passed. The Ordinance came into operation on 1st March. The size and weight of the receptacles and the quantity of spirit which they are to contain have been prescribed.

23. Proclamation No. 6 of 1906, which came into operation on the 1st April, provides for the collection of buoyage dues by the Customs officers at the following ports, unless the ship is specially exempted:—

Calabar, Opobo, Bonny, Brass, Akassa, and Forcados.

The dues are intended to cover the cost of the upkeep of buoys in the rivers.

II.—TRADE AND SHIPPING.

General Trade.

24. The following table shows the total value of trade and the revenue derived from customs duties for the year under report compared with the previous year:—

Province.	Customs Stations.	Imports.				Exports.				Total Trade.		Duty.	
		1905.		1906.		1905.		1906.		1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.
		Commercial and Government.	Specie.	Commercial and Government.	Specie.	Commercial and Government.	Specie.	Commercial and Government.	Specie.			Import.	Export.
Western or Lagos.	Lagos	£ 1,035,788	£ 68,695	£ 1,221,233	£ 166,819	£ 843,377	£ 175,317	£ 1,026,045	£ 200,328	£ 2,125,277	£ 2,614,423	£ 263,283	£ 281,377
	Forcados and Onitsha	406,748	136,880	388,806	105,860	419,507	—	442,933	200	933,115	933,739	100,048	82,818
	Warri	142,160	2,288	151,439	363	150,302	—	185,407	—	365,200	377,403	44,569	53,994
	Sapele	136,831	8,379	71,969	3,219	168,612	—	108,076	—	313,812	167,369	45,501	19,537
Eastern	Benin (Koko Town) ..	685,729	147,477	690,687	110,332	738,921	—	836,680	200	1,572,127	1,637,889	130,148	187,196
	Calabar and Obokun	358,472	21,442	384,798	8,383	313,439	1,459	358,797	—	694,812	751,971	109,199	140,363
	Oroko and Ekwana	293,409	19,482	994,703	11,610	350,700	—	411,222	—	632,681	732,541	115,637	3,343
	Sonyi and Bakana ..	100,219	3,351	85,773	1,522	101,208	650	100,076	500	205,423	188,471	38,221	36,959
	Derema and Buguna ..	89,273	5,766	86,105	1,732	136,762	—	141,900	—	231,831	228,737	44,038	48,217
	Bra-s	31,897	400	31,908	500	53,215	—	64,530	—	86,422	86,966	21,505	22,744
	Akassa	20,981	—	27,939	—	11,415	—	13,828	—	35,396	41,767	10,764	8,548
	Grand Total ..	869,289	50,441	935,397	23,800	969,912	2,109	1,087,663	500	1,892,351	2,047,363	339,697	417,011
		2,592,406	266,613	2,847,317	300,951	2,582,710	178,026	2,930,391	201,026	5,584,755	6,299,635	793,128	865,584

N.B.—The Government importations for Northern Nigeria are included in these accounts.

25. The total trade compared with 1905 shows an increase in volume of £709,930, made up as follows:—

Imports.			
		£	£
Commercial	...	254,911	
Specie	...	34,338	
			289,249
Exports.			
Commercial	...	397,681	
Specie	...	23,000	
			420,681
			£709,930

26. The increase in trade is attributed to the following causes:—

- (a) The fact that the year has been favourable for the cultivated products and that increased attention has been paid to agriculture throughout the country;
- (b) The high prices prevailing in Europe and in the local markets, which have caused an increase in imports and in the value of exports;
- (c) The more settled state of the Protectorate during the year; and
- (d) The increased facilities given to trade and the expansion of European influence.

27. The cultivated products exported consisted chiefly of cocoa, coffee, cotton, maize, and ground-nuts. The following table shows the value of the exports of these products for 1906, compared with the two previous years:—

	1906.	1905.	1904.
	£	£	£
Eastern and Central Provinces ...	31,904	13,281	12,783
Western Province... ..	98,295	63,790	43,607
Total	130,199	77,071	56,390

28. The prices realized for palm products were higher than they have been since the early nineties, but there is some reason to doubt whether these high prices will be maintained.

29. In spite of the large exports from the Gold Coast, cocoa exported from Lagos fetched prices ranging from 56s. to 65s.

per cwt., in November and December, whereas at the same time in 1905 the prices ranged from 36s. to 40s. per cwt.

30. The Protectorate was in a more settled state during the year 1906 than it has been for the last three or four years, the Agbor rising, the most important disturbance of the year, having very little, if any, effect on the trade of the country.

31. There is an increase in trade in every Province. The following figures show the increases which have taken place compared with the year 1905:—

	£
Western Province	489,146
Central Province	65,772
Eastern Province	155,012

32. The general reasons for the increased trade of the year have already been stated. So far as Lagos is concerned those reasons are specially applicable. In addition, the large importations of building material, machinery, and railway material; the supplies for the headquarters station, and the fact that the value of packages, freight, and charges on goods were not included in the figures for 1905, have made the increase for 1906 nearly three quarters of a million sterling.

IMPORTS.

33. The quantity and value of the principal articles of import for the twelve months ended 31st December, 1906, compared with the result of the previous year are shown in Appendix B (I).* (The Porto Novo imports are not included in these figures.)

34. The following statement shows the total value of imports into Southern Nigeria, and the value of the imports from the various countries with which trade is carried on for the last three years, exclusive of specie, and the increase or decrease during the year under report compared with the two previous years:—

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	Germany.	Holland.	Other Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£
1906	2,847,000	2,153,000	304,000	271,000	119,000
1905	2,592,000	1,991,000	309,000	177,000	115,000
1904	2,371,000	1,795,000	317,000	163,000	96,000
1905	+255,000	+162,000	- 5,000	+ 94,000	+ 4,000
1904	+476,000	+358,000	- 13,000	+109,000	+ 23,000

35. The trade returns show that there has been an increase of nearly half a million in the value of imports in two years,

* Not printed.

and although for the first nine months of 1904 the transit trade of Porto Novo was erroneously included in the trade figures of the Colony of Lagos without any distinction being made from the ordinary importations, still the inclusion of those figures is counterbalanced by the exclusion of packages and other charges on imported goods from the value of such goods.

36. The following statement shows the distribution of the import trade for the last three years:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	Germany.	Holland.	Other Countries.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
1906	75·62	10·65	9·55	4·18
1905	76·58	12·11	6·87	4·44
1904	75·71	13·37	6·87	4·05
Average ...	75·97	12·04	7·76	4·23

Decreases in Imports.

37. Decreases have taken place in the value and quantity of the following articles compared with the previous year's importations:—

(i) *Aerated Waters.*

This article shows a decrease in the number of dozen bottles imported of 9,397, valued at £1,640, which is due to the use of locally-made in place of imported aerated waters.

(ii) *Beads.*

A large decrease in the importation of beads, amounting to £10,000, appears in the Western Province returns, but the fact that coral beads, which are entirely imported through Parcel Post, are included in the importations by Parcel Post, whereas in 1905 they were classified as beads, accounts for £4,000. Stoppage in the Northern Nigeria trade it is said accounts for some portion of the decrease, and large stocks were on hand at the beginning of the year. It is noticed that Germany supplies the demand for this article to a very great extent

(iii) *Cotton Goods.*

The falling off in the importation of cotton goods amounts to £31,500. The decrease is made up as follows:—

	£
Lagos	7,200
Eastern and Central Provinces ...	24,300
Total ...	£31,500

The following statement shows the value of the cotton goods imported during the last three years:—

	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£
Lagos	367,000	424,000	417,000
Eastern and Central Provinces ...	357,000	369,000	344,000
Total	724,000	793,000	761,000

(iv) *Earthenware and Glassware.*

Attention is directed to the comparatively large decreases compared with 1905, which have taken place in the importation of these articles. One reasonably expects an increase in such articles in a year when trade is so favourable. The decrease is most marked in the Western Province. The following statement gives the figures for the three years:—

Article.	Province.	1906.	1905.	1904.
		£	£	£
Earthenware ...	Lagos	7,800	9,000	7,500
	Eastern and Central...	7,700	7,800	8,700
Glassware ...	Lagos	1,400	2,600	2,500
	Eastern and Central...	2,100	2,600	1,900

(v) *Hardware and Machinery.*

This item shows a slight decrease of £3,000, attributed to smaller importations by the British Cotton Growing Association and the Government during 1906.

(vi) *Dane Guns and Gunpowder.*

There are large decreases in the importations of Dane guns and gunpowder. The following statement shows the importations into Lagos and the Eastern and Central Provinces in 1905 and 1906.

The importation of these articles has been affected by the large importations in previous years in anticipation of an increased duty. The natives would not buy at the increased price on the duty being raised; and large stocks consequently remained on hand.

Article.	Province.	1906.		1905.		Decrease.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Dane Guns .. No	Lagos	3,678	£ 1,299	15,745	£ 5,717	12,067	£ 4,418
	Eastern and Central.	10,390	3,614	14,578	5,290	4,188	1,476
Gunpowder .. lbs.	Lagos	218,162	3,346	225,888	2,951	7,724	395
	Eastern and Central.	563,033	7,699	1,036,928	13,588	473,895	5,889

Increases in Imports.

38. There have been increases in most of the principal commodities imported owing to the good year for trade throughout the country; particular attention is directed to the imports of kola nuts, kerosene, and matches. The following heads require some further explanation:—

(i) Silk Goods.

There has been an increase in the value of silk goods imported amounting to £28,500. The Lagos imports show an increase of £29,000. There has been a decrease therefore in the importations of the Eastern and Central Provinces of £500. It is thought that the importation of silks into Lagos has not actually increased to the extent indicated by the figures, for it would mean that such importations have been almost quadrupled in the last year.

(ii) Wearing Apparel.

Although the combined Provinces show a total increase of £3,700 under this head, there is a falling off in the Eastern and Central Provinces of £2,900, as the Lagos imports show an increase of £6,600. This is a partial explanation of the decrease in cotton goods.

(iii) Spirits.

In spite of the increased duty of 3s. 6d. a gallon which was in force throughout the year up to the 22nd December, when a further increase to 4s. a gallon took place, there has been a large increase in the importation of this commodity. The low importations of the year before, the increased area of supply, and the low prices at which the spirit is sold in some districts of the Protectorate, in addition to the larger prices paid for produce in a good trade year, account for this increase. The native chiefs will probably store a large portion of this spirit, which represents their wealth in some parts of the Protectorate, and which will be bartered for produce, cloth, &c., in the native markets.

In Lagos the spirit importations show a very slight increase.

In the Eastern Province, on the other hand, there has been a comparatively large increase caused by the low price ruling in spirits at Egwanga, the great tobacco and spirit importing port, on account of the competition which has been going on during the past year. Some of the increase is also attributable to the greater area to be supplied. It is to be noted that although the Government raise the bulk of the revenue from the duty on spirits, the consumption is considerably below 1 gallon per head of the population, and drunkenness among the natives is very rare.

(iv) *Tobacco Unmanufactured.*

The following statement shows the importations of un-manufactured tobacco for three years:—

Province.	1906.		1905.		1904.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
Lagos ...	896,375	17,129	1,054,091	21,278	1,034,892	21,048
Eastern and Central.	5,059,323	89,992	3,225,929	69,509	3,826,566	85,352
Total ...	5,956,198	107,121	4,280,020	90,787	4,861,458	106,400

This enormous increase in tobacco in the Eastern and Central Provinces is caused by the large importations at Egwanga due to the small supplies of the previous year, and the abnormally large prices for produce which have prevailed during the year both on account of the good European market and on account of the competition in the Eastern Province. The decrease in tobacco in Lagos is due probably to the difficulty in obtaining supplies and is not important.

(v) *Vehicles.*

Attention is specially directed to the large increase under this head, which includes carts, bicycles, &c. The number of vehicles imported has almost doubled itself in the last year. The figures are:—

	1906.		1905.		Increase.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£		£		£
Lagos ...	—	4,435	—	1,646	—	2,789
Eastern and Central.	1,187	4,313	640	3,352	547	961

39. The amount of £527,000 for Other Articles requires some explanation. To facilitate the preparation of entries and invoices merchants are allowed to show the packages, freight, and charges at the end of the entry instead of showing the freight, &c., for each article; a record is kept of these amounts,

which form the largest item that goes to make up this amount. The principal items are:—

	£
Packages, freight, &c.	307,000
Railway material	80,000
Uniforms, &c.	19,000
Parcel Post	13,000
Cordage, &c.	11,000
Cartridges loaded	9,000
Arms, &c.	5,000
Lead	5,000
Canvas, &c.	4,000
Miscellaneous articles	74,000
	£527,000

The large increase compared with 1905 is due to the fact that in Lagos no account was kept in that year of the amount charged for packages, freight, &c.

40. The specie importations during the year have been very large owing to the increased trade of the country and the consequent demand for specie.

EXPORTS.

41. The following statement shows the total value of exports from the Colony and Protectorate and the various countries to which they were shipped for the last three years, exclusive of specie, and the increase or decrease in 1906, compared with the previous years:—

Year.	Total.	United Kingdom.	Germany.	France.	Other Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£
1906	2,950,000	1,677,000	1,158,000	36,000	79,000
1905	2,552,000	1,368,000	1,041,000	34,000	108,000
1904	2,635,000	1,408,000	1,091,000	66,000	70,000
1905	+398,000	+309,000	+117,000	+ 2,000	— 29,000
1904	+315,000	+269,000	+ 67,000	— 30,000	+ 9,000

The United Kingdom has taken 56·85 per cent. of the export trade, Germany 39·25 per cent., France 1·22 per cent., and other countries 2·68 per cent. In Lagos Province Germany took 62·17 per cent. of the trade, as almost the entire palm kernel trade is in the hands of the German firms, and the

United Kingdom took 30·12 per cent. In 1905 the United Kingdom took 53·6 per cent. of the export trade, and Germany 40·79 per cent., but in the Lagos Province Germany took 60·07 per cent. of the exports in 1905 and the United Kingdom 31·04 per cent. So that in 1906 compared with 1905 exports to the United Kingdom have increased 3·25 per cent., while those to Germany have decreased 1·54 per cent.; but in Lagos the exports to the United Kingdom have fallen off ·92 per cent., while those to Germany have increased 2·1 per cent. The increase in the Lagos exports to Germany in 1906 is due to the fact that Messrs. Witt and Büsch extended their business to Ilesha during the early part of the year and captured the rubber trade of that neighbourhood, which considerably increased the exports of rubber to Germany. It is noticed also that Germany has secured the greater part of the increased cocoa and maize exports.

Decreases in Exports.

42. The decreases which have taken place during the year are small and not very important. The following table shows the value and quantity for three years of the principal products in which decreases in exportation have taken place in 1906 compared with 1905:—

Product.	Province.	1906.		1905.		1904.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Coffee lbs.	Lagos ..	14,550	£ 493	81,301	£ 1,229	11,280	£ 136
	Eastern and Central.	54,322	691	7,066	65	41,613	301
Copra "	Lagos ..	49,280	265	142,744	610	61	626
	Eastern and Central.	11,644	54	3,159	13	17,363	73
Fibre .. packages	Lagos ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Eastern and Central.	5,414	3,210	7,290	4,052	5,781	3,673
Ivory lbs.	Lagos ..	3,977	805	4,871	1,069	4,886	928
	Eastern and Central.	7,917	1,763	7,363	2,262	11,763	3,469
Shea Products tons	Lagos ..	231	4,353	223	4,914	127	3,285
	Eastern and Central.	1,496	14,584	1,561	17,270	1,234	22,390

(i) *Coffee.*

While there has been a considerable decrease in the quantity of coffee exported from Lagos, the output from the Central and Eastern Provinces is considerably larger than it has been for years. A considerable increase is noticeable in the Central Province.

(ii) *Copra.*

The production of copra is confined to the Western Province and practically to the Roman Catholic Mission at Topo. The decrease is due to the fact that large sales of cocoanuts to the French Government at Konakry were made during the year, and the usual amount of copra was not produced.

(iii) *Fibre.*

The production of fibre is confined to the Eket District in the Eastern Province. It is shipped in packages of about 1 cwt. each. There has been a considerable falling off this year compared with the last two years.

(iv) *Shea Products.*

The Lagos exports again show an increase, although the railway return shows a decrease of 39 tons in the quantity carried. Practically the whole of the Central Province exports goes to the Continent of Europe, and of the Lagos exports only six tons went to the United Kingdom. There are no exports from the Eastern Province.

Increases in Exports.

43. The year, although exceptionally good for produce, is not so good in some respects as 1904, one of the best palm oil and kernel years on record, both in Lagos and the Eastern and Central Provinces. So far, however, as cultivated produce is concerned, except in the case of coffee, the year is the best on record.

(i) *Palm Products.*

The following statement shows the quantity of palm oil and palm kernels exported during the last three years:—

Product.	Province.	1906.	1905.	1904.
Palm Oil ... Galls.	Lagos... ..	3,081,256	2,765,909	3,196,142
	Eastern and Central	12,951,315	11,391,476	13,028,733
Palm Kernels ... Tons.	Lagos... ..	48,337	45,176	59,318
	Eastern and Central	63,010	63,646	70,500

The above statement does not include exports from Porto Novo, but as it was customary to include these exports up to August, 1904, in the Lagos exports, it is likely that some Porto Novo produce was included in the amount shown as exported from Lagos during that year. It is unquestionable, however, that the year 1904 was an exceptionally good produce year, especially as regards kernels.

(ii) *Cotton.*

Cotton is the most important of all the cultivated products, and on the proper establishment of an industry of this kind the future development of this portion of the Empire is largely dependent, as it is an industry which can give permanent employment to the people, and be a constant and reliable source of wealth. As cotton has been grown for some time by the natives in the hinterland of this country for their own use, it is very likely that they understand to some extent the method of cultivation. No doubt a great deal can be done to develop the industry by the erection of large ginneries in the important centres, by the distribution of seed proved by experiment to be suitable for local growth in the neighbourhood of these centres, and by improving the means of communication around these centres. Some considerable time must necessarily elapse before large cotton plantations can be started, because it will be some time before the best method of growing cotton in West Africa is properly understood, and because the native prefers to carry on a small farm of his own rather than work under another's supervision for a certain number of hours each day or at a fixed task; so that at present a constant and sufficiently large supply of labour trained in cotton-growing is not available. Up to the present the cotton industry has made more progress in Southern Nigeria than in other parts of West Africa. Ginneries have been erected at Aro, and others are being erected at Oyo, Iwo, Lafenwa, and Eruwa Road. The following statement shows the exportations of cotton produce in 1906, compared with 1905:—

Cotton.

Province.	Customs Station.	1906.				1905.				Increase + or Decrease —			
		No. of Bales.	Weight in lbs.	Average weight of Bales in lbs.	Value.	No. of Bales.	Weight in lbs.	Average weight of Bales in lbs.	Value.	No. of Bales.	Weight in lbs.	Average weight of Bales in lbs.	Value.
Western or Lagos ...	Lagos ...	6,088	2,294,629	380	£ 30,715	2,775	1,054,569	380	£ 15,591	+	1,240,060	—	£ + 15,124
Central or Niger ...	Forcados ...	2,046	363,938	180	10,087	11	1,896	180	30	+	364,402	—	+ 10,067
	Onitsha Warri ...	183	82,921	—	760	524	94,400	—	225	—	-61,479	—	+535
	Sapele ...	—	75	—	1	—	10	—	—	—	+65	—	+1
	Benin (Koko Town)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastern or Calabar	No export ...	2,229	401,294	—	10,848	535	96,806	—	245	+	304,988	—	+ 10,503
Grand Total ...	...	8,267	2,695,923	—	41,563	3,310	1,150,875	—	15,836	+	1,545,048	—	+ 25,727

N.B.—(1) Exportation of Cotton, raw, from Northern Nigeria—January to December, 1906 included in Forcados.

No. of Bales. 1,914
Weights in lbs. 344,438
Average weight. 180

(2) Bales from Western Province average about 380 lbs.
Bales from Central Province average about 180 lbs.

Value.
£9,566

Cotton Seed.

Province.	Customs Station.	1906.				1905.				Increase or Decrease.		
		No. of Bags.	Weight in lbs.	Average weight of Bags in lbs.	Value.	No. of Bags.	Weight in lbs.	Average weight of Bags in lbs.	Value.	No. of Bags.	Weight in lbs.	Average weight of Bags in lbs.
Western or Lagos ...	Lagos ...	57,787	6,466,513	112	£ 8,808	14,348	1,605,997	112	£ 3,577	43,389	4,860,516	—
	Forcados and Onitsha.	5,614	449,101	80	727	—	—	—	—	5,614	449,101	—
Central or Niger ...	Warri ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Sapele ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Benin (Koko Town)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastern or Calabar	(No export) ...	5,614	449,101	—	727	—	—	—	—	5,614	449,101	—
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Total	...	63,351	6,915,614	—	9,535	14,348	1,605,997	—	3,577	49,003	5,309,617	—

N.B.—(1) Exportation of cotton seed from Northern Nigeria, January-December, 1906 included in Forcados :—

No. of Bags.	Weight in lbs.	Average weight.	Value.
6,614	449,101	80	£ 72

(2) Bags from Western Province, average weight about 112 lbs.
Bags from Central Province, average weight about 80 lbs.

(iii) *Rubber.**Eastern and Central Provinces.*

Year.	Total Quantity.	Total Value.	United Kingdom.		Germany.		Other Countries.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
1891—1892	373,839	15,537	373,839	15,537	—	—	—	—
1892—1893	332,433	17,610	332,433	17,610	—	—	—	—
1893—1894	540,772	27,782	540,772	27,782	—	—	—	—
1894—1895	—	13,282	—	13,282	—	—	—	—
1895—1896	308,309	11,787	307,039	11,736	1,270	51	—	—
1896—1897	386,131	17,442	347,936	15,101	—	—	38,195	2,340
1897—1898	592,309	32,960	537,625	28,837	—	—	64,684	4,122
1898—1899	874,298	60,608	783,424	53,013	—	—	90,874	7,595
1899—1900	1,450,567	105,117	1,293,418	93,374	154,056	11,564	2,193	178
1900	2,251,115	137,289	2,141,827	128,440	106,488	8,849	—	—
1901	1,740,156	106,925	1,718,522	105,818	21,358	1,094	276	13
1902	865,834	46,946	830,674	45,602	35,160	1,344	—	—
1903	1,177,803	61,816	1,144,404	60,611	33,399	1,204	—	—
1904	2,408,926	158,991	2,370,694	156,666	34,284	2,135	3,948	190
1905	2,842,831	226,387	2,752,216	223,793	84,510	2,098	6,105	496
1906	2,506,652	215,817	2,443,099	210,482	62,352	5,235	1,200	100

Western (Lagos) Province.

Year.	Total Quantity.	Total Value.	United Kingdom.		Germany.		Other Countries.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
1892	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1893	56	3	—	—	56	3	—	—
1894	5,867	324	5,723	319	144	5	—	—
1895	5,069,576	269,893	3,200,123	166,344	1,380,280	80,000	489,173	23,549
1896	6,484,363	347,721	5,635,595	259,067	1,333,831	82,279	114,937	6,375
1897	4,458,327	283,185	4,000,419	246,889	457,908	36,296	—	—
1898	3,778,266	285,410	3,550,292	262,907	227,974	22,502	—	—
1899	1,993,525	160,315	1,830,816	144,224	162,689	16,069	20	2
1900	596,332	48,239	555,489	44,406	40,852	3,833	—	—
1901	194,280	14,749	187,103	14,269	7,177	480	—	—
1902	151,440	9,272	142,176	8,654	9,264	618	—	—
1903	131,311	15,583	118,255	14,485	13,056	1,118	—	—
1904	265,458	22,961	244,379	21,843	21,079	1,118	—	—
1905	260,560	22,656	235,424	19,796	31,136	2,860	—	—
1906	927,627	91,260	619,044	63,907	30,858	27,353	—	—

The great proportion of rubber exported from Southern Nigeria is obtained in the Eastern and Central Provinces, principally from the *functumia elastica*, which grows in the forests, and up to the present practically the whole of the rubber exported is forest produce, rudely prepared by the native with little or no intelligent control of the collection. The foregoing statements show the quantity of rubber exported from the Eastern and Central Provinces and Lagos from 1891-2 to 1906. There has been no systematic cultivation or preparation of the rubber, and the forest trees have been destroyed through want of knowledge and practically uncontrolled collection, except during the last four years, when a serious attempt has been made by the Forestry Department in the Eastern and Central Provinces to arrest the evil. In the hinterland of Lagos the efforts of the Forestry Department are restricted to advice, the rules relating to rubber under the Forestry Proclamation not being in force.

(iv) *Maize.*

This product is practically confined to the Western Province. The exports for the past three years are shown in the following statement:—

	Total.		United Kingdom.		Germany.		Other Countries.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
1904	4 689	16,115	3,510	11,785	155	485	1,034	3,845
1905	9,385	32,503	6,668	22,921	2,543	8,701	174	882
1906	13,053	37,386	7,792	21,980	5,027	14,764	284	642

(v) *Ground-Nuts.*

The exportation of this product appears at present in the Central Province returns only, and the trade is confined to the Niger. The following figures show the development which has taken place in the last four years:—

	cwt.	£
1903	9,363	2,732
1904	15,144	4,999
1905	15,805	6,959
1906	33,216	13,486

It is probable that this industry will show a considerable development when the railway is constructed to Jebba, as it is no doubt handicapped at present by the want of proper transport; possibly the abolition of tolls in Ilorin will attract a certain amount of this produce to Lagos without affecting the Niger exportations.

(vi) *Cocoa.*

There has been an enormous development in cocoa during the last year, confined chiefly to the Western Province. In the Eastern and Central Provinces there has been some further development; but there the farmers have not taken up agriculture to the same extent as in Lagos during the last few years, and the same amount of system and healthy competition does not exist. The following table shows the exports of cocoa from Lagos and the Eastern and Central Provinces for the last three years:—

Province.	1904.		1905.		1906.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	£	lbs.	£	lbs.	£
Lagos	821,732	13,892	896,350	10,889	1,153,439	20,893
Eastern and Central.	367,728	4,982	388,479	6,019	466,548	6,161

(vii) *Skins of all kinds.*

The trade in these skins is practically confined to the Western Province; the exports for the last three years from Lagos are:—

					£
1904	...	...	...	...	674
1905	...	...	...	...	1,530
1906	...	...	...	...	3,383

44. The other products exported and classified under "Other Articles" in the trade returns of the Colony are native provisions, native soap, sheep, goats, and horses exported to the Gold Coast and West African ports, Calabar beans, capsicums, camwood, native drugs, oil beans, "potash," poultry, wood oil, and other articles.

PORTO NOVO TRADE IN TRANSIT THROUGH LAGOS.

45. It would be incorrect to include this trade in the import and export trade of the Colony, because the goods are only conveyed through the inland waters and are never landed in Lagos at any private wharf. It is the rule that kerosene, gunpowder, and firearms should pay duty in all cases before importation is allowed, but on such commodities going through the inland waters to Porto Novo a drawback is granted of 95 per cent. of the duty; otherwise there is no charge, even on the boats that carry this trade. The development of this trade has been considerable. The follow-

ing statement shows the principal exports in 1906 compared with those for 1905:—

Article.	1906.	1905.	Remarks.
Cotton, Raw ... lbs.	84,915	—	} Value of export trade £162,721.
" Seed	66,080	29,120	
Maize Tons	4,207	40	
Palm Kernels	10,844	10,950	
Palm Oil Galls.	171,011	12,400	
Rubber "	2,646	4,480	

In Lagos no detailed account was kept of the importations for Porto Novo; it is not possible, therefore, to furnish a comparative statement of the principal imports, but the value of British and foreign manufactures imported in 1905 amounted to £14,673 as against a total of £36,193 for 1906. The following table shows the principal imports for 1906:—

	Total.		United Kingdom.		Germany.		Other Countries.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Cotton Goods .. packages	533	£ 12,590	506	£ 11,912	27	£ 678	—	£ —
Matches gross	21,250	1,732	—	—	21,250	1,732	—	—
Salt tons	14,190	1,176	12,145	956	2,045	220	—	—
Silk Goods packages	43	540	42	797	1	43	—	—
Tobacco (manufactured) lbs.	66,869	1,571	46,455	1,118	19,914	453	—	—
Tobacco (Unmanufactured) ..	371,388	9,398	210,288	5,557	161,100	3,841	—	—
Other Articles	—	8,886	—	5,592	—	3,104	—	190
Totals	—	36,193	—	25,932	—	10,071	—	190

Import Duties.

46. The increase in import duties received during the year as compared with the previous year amounted to £92,456, and the amount collected exceeded the estimate by £25,584.

The figures for the last three years are shown in the following table.

	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£
Western Province... ..	253,861	263,283	281,377
Central Province	168,009	190,148	187,196
Eastern Province	344,875	339,697	417,011
Total	766,745	793,128	885,584

47. The increase in the Customs revenue collected is due to the greater quantity of gin, unmanufactured tobacco, and kerosene imported during the year 1906.

48. The following table shows the revenue derived from the principal revenue-producing articles, compared with the revenue derived from the same articles in 1905:—

Articles.	1905 (including Lagos.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Spirits*				
Brandy*	207	323		
Gin*	296,799	474,251		
Liqueurs*	239	523		
Rum*	46,013	100,167		
Whisky*	4,088	4,230		
Unenumerated*	391	21,291		
Tobacco (Unmanufactured)	71,119	82,479	11,360	
Gunpowder	31,555	19,083	—	12,472
Salt	27,877	26,363	—	914
Kerosene	7,736	8,823	1,087	—
Dane Guns	5,357	3,517	—	1,840
Cotton Goods	78,854	75,654	—	3,200
Hardware and Machinery	6,876	7,176	300	—
Provisions	7,030	6,918	—	112
Other Articles	47,681	54,187	6,506	—
	£ 161,306 + 631,822			
	£ 793,128	885,585	110,995	16,538

Nett increase £92,457.

* Duties on spirits for Lagos, 1905, not shown separately, but amounted to £161,306.

SHIPPING.

49. In Appendix A is shown the number and tonnage of the ships which have entered and cleared from the Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria during the year 1906. It is not possible to make any comparison owing to the amalgamation of Lagos Colony with Southern Nigeria Protectorate, as ships which call at Lagos also called in some cases at the river ports, and a combination of the statistics of the two places would give a most inaccurate result. The return is important in so far as it shows the growth of British and foreign shipping, and of the number and tonnage of the ships of each nationality. There is an apparent large increase in the number of foreign ships and a corresponding large decrease in the number of British ships if the return is compared with the 1905 return for the Eastern and Central Provinces. This is easily explained. In the 1905 return for the Eastern and Central Provinces, the branch boats from Lagos were included

in the shipping, so that there was a comparatively large addition to British shipping which is not included in 1906. Lagos is the port of call for all the German boats going to the south, and the German boats which go regularly to and from Porto Novo have also been included in these returns and are an addition to the returns for the Eastern and Central Provinces.

50. The following table shows the total value of trade carried in British and foreign ships during the last year:—

—	Southern Nigeria.		Porto Novo. (In transit.)	
	1906.		1906.	
	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.
	£	£	£	£
Entered	2,779,926	368,343	25,842	10,351
Cleared	2,400,401	751,017	40,654	123,409
Total	5,180,327	1,119,360	66,496	133,760

It is not possible to make any comparison with previous years, as a return of the value of the trade carried was not kept in the Western Provinces in the past. The following return showing the trade carried in British and foreign ships in the Central and Eastern Provinces during the last three years may be of some interest:—

—	British.			Foreign.		
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Entered	1,651,448	1,615,222	1,608,297	141,021	138,314	151,920
Cleared	1,509,190	1,497,537	1,688,609	209,527	213,404	236,438
Total	3,160,638	3,112,759	3,296,906	350,548	351,718	388,358

The returns show that so far as the Eastern and Central Provinces are concerned British shipping has taken a very fair proportion of the increased trade.

51. So far as the ocean steamship services are concerned there has been a marked improvement in the arrival of the mail steamers up to time, and the time tables of the steamship companies are more reliable than in the past. The boats are

required to adhere to the dates shown in the tables, and a faster and better class of ship is quickly replacing the old type.

52. A local fortnightly service was inaugurated at the end of the year between Lagos and the Gold Coast ports. This service relieves the main line boats of the intermediate cargo and deck passengers from those ports for Lagos, and very often prevents a day's delay of the large mail steamers at the Coast ports and the transshipment of the passengers and cargo at Lagos, which very frequently necessitated the branch steamer remaining for a night outside the bar at the entrance of the harbour.

III.—FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE.*

Examination of Forests.

53. Some hitherto unexplored forests were visited during the year. In the Western Province this work was carried out by the Conservator of Forests in conjunction with the Provincial Forest Officer, and in addition to examining the Mamu and Oshun river reserves, a tour was made through the forests of the northern portions of the Jebu Odé and the central parts of the Ilesha districts.

54. In the Central Province the "swamp" forests between Forcados, Ramos, and Dodo Rivers were for the first time examined by a Forest Officer, who reports that the mahogany found in this part of the country is *Khaya Panchii*. Some fine belts of high evergreen forest are met with along the banks of the creeks wherever firm solid ground is to be found. The bulk of the vegetation, however, belongs to the mangrove swamp type.

55. The Provincial Forest Officer visited some unexplored country to the north of the Cross River, in the Eastern Province, as well as the better known portions of the Oban Hills.

Alteration of Reserved Area.

56. There have been no additions to the reserved areas except in the Central Province, where the Native Councils of the Warri, Sapele, Ifon, Agbor, and Benin City districts have passed laws reserving the forests along both banks of the rivers for a distance of 1,000 yards back on either side. This

* A report on the Forest Administration of Southern Nigeria will be published separately in the series of Colonial Reports—Miscellaneous.

is an important move in the right direction, and not only ensures the protection and regulation of the water supply, but also reserves the most accessible and easily exploitable areas for the production of large timber.

The exploration of the forests mentioned above was undertaken with a view to selecting the best areas for future reservation. This, however, will take some time, and the hilly country to the north of the Cross River cannot be taken up till the country has been put under direct administrative control.

Forest Protection.

57. With the exception of the general protection against felling for purposes of farming given to some of the more important economic trees growing on areas leased out for timber exploitation, it may be said that the bulk of the forests of Southern Nigeria are still threatened with extermination at the hands of the native farmers. Their system of agriculture, as practised in the more wooded portions of the country, is one of the most wasteful known. Steps are taken to induce them to adopt improved methods, but progress in this direction is still slow.

58. Most of the reserves in the Western Province were more or less successfully protected during the year. Protection against fire was undertaken for a portion of the Oloke Meji Reserve, which is situated in the "dry zone."

Regeneration of Forests.

59. The method of farming adopted by the natives has given a favourable start in the struggle for existence to such plants only as are capable of easily reproducing themselves by means of coppice and stool shoots, and root suckers; and these unfortunately are in general not of economic importance. Natural regeneration by means of seeds is exceedingly difficult in the thick secondary growth that springs up on abandoned farms in the interval between two successive farming rotations.

Plantations.

60. The existing plantations in the reserves of the Central Province have been steadily augmented during the year, more especially as regards *Funtumia elastica*.

In the Mamu reserve, which contains a splendid plantation, eighteen compartments were cleared of undergrowth and blanks filled in with plants of that species, besides which twelve other compartments were made and fully planted up with rubber. Ten acres were also put down with Para rubber in the same reserve. Steady progress continues to be made also in the establishment of new plantations of *Funtumia elastica* all over the Central Province. During 1906 plantations, 369 in number, containing 167,135 plants, were made in

the Benin districts, and 134 plantations, containing 40,320 plants in the Niger region, as compared with a total of 119,800 and 31,832 plants, respectively, for the previous year.

61. Messrs. Alexander Miller Brother, who were the first to take up the cultivation of Para rubber in the Central Province, have purchased 30,000 more seeds with a view to increasing the size of the Sepele plantation. The latter is now in very fine condition, and the plants show excellent growth. The African Association made an attempt to start Para rubber plantations in the Central Province, but they do not seem to have pushed the matter further. A large number of seeds were sown at Benin City, whence the young plants will be distributed to the various district headquarters. The plants in the Forest Office compound are now from 12 to 15 feet high.

62. In the Eastern Province little has been done in the way of making plantations of rubber. A few of the European trading firms have small areas planted up with *Funtumia elastica* and *Ficus elastica*, but there has been no active interest taken in the matter by the natives, who as a rule appear to be fully engaged in the palm oil trade. Rubber trees have been planted in most of the district stations and along some of the main roads in Calabar.

A very good plantation of Para rubber has been made in the new extension of the Calabar Gardens. The plants have shown exceptionally fine growth.

63. The Provincial Forest Officer of the Central Province reports that rather over 35,000 seedlings of mahoganies (*Khaya*, *Pseudocedrela*, and *Entandrophragma*) were planted out by holders of timber leases, and that these have been largely supplemented by freeing from dominant growth suppressed seedlings growing naturally in the forests.

Exploitation of Major Forest Produce.

64. The number of mahogany logs exported from Southern Nigeria during 1906 was 20,274, valued *locally* at £68,718, as against 13,442 logs, valued at £49,557, in the previous year.

The increase is mainly due to the impetus given to the trade by the higher prices offered in the home markets. The bulk of the timber was furnished by West African "Mahoganies" belonging to the genera *Khaya*, *Pseudocedrela* and *Entandrophragma*, of the natural order *Meliaceae*.

A few logs were also cut from a species of *Guarea* and realized fair prices in Europe.

65. Further efforts were made to place other kinds of West African woods on the European market, but with little success. There are, however, a large variety of woods now that have been favourably reported on by timber brokers and they afford ample scope for any new enterprise in this direction. The introduction of improved methods of hauling timber by means

of mechanical appliances and draught animals is still a desideratum.

Exploitation of Minor Forest Produce.

66. (a) *Rubber*.—The total output of rubber for 1906 (including exports from Northern Nigeria) amounted to 3,434,279 lbs., valued locally at £307,077, as compared with 3,109,707 lbs., valued at £249,043, in the previous year.

67. Experiments were made with a view to preparing rubber of a better quality with the ordinary appliances available to the natives, and it was found that with the exercise of a little care as regards straining the latex of impurities, washing the freshly coagulated latex, and cutting it up into thin strips that can be more easily dried in wood smoke, a product was obtained that was valued in England at prices ranging from 4s. 6d. to 4s. 8d. a lb., when best Brazilian Para was selling at 5s. 2d. a lb. The latex experimented with was that of *Funtumia elastica*, and nothing but the most simple articles such as demijohns, earthen pots, a sieve, and a empty bottle or two, were used for preparing the rubber.

68. Demonstrations were given to the rangers, forester, forest guards, and pupils in such simple methods of preparing the improved produce, and it is hoped that the natives generally will adopt the system. There is not the slightest doubt that the price of our best rubbers such as that procured from *Funtumia elastica*, *Landolphia Ovariensis*, and *Clitandra elastica* can be doubled by the exercise of a little care in the preparation of the produce. Such efforts, however, will not be successful unless a substantially higher price is paid to the natives for the superior article and the Adulteration of Produce Ordinance is simultaneously put into force. The two rangers, who were sent to French Guinea for the purpose of learning the methods employed there in preparing rubber, returned to Southern Nigeria towards the end of the year, and have since been employed in teaching the natives of the rubber yielding districts of the Protectorate what they have learnt.

69. (b) *Gums*.—The export of gum copal in 1906 was 34,634 lbs., valued at £6,650, as compared with 33,207 lbs., valued at £3,967, in the previous year. The plant that furnishes this product is a lofty tree of the moist evergreen forests and is known to botanists as *Cyanothyrsus Ogea*, (*Daniellia Oblonga* is a synonym). It is common in parts of the Western and Central Provinces.

The trade in "Balsam Copaiba" has fallen off very much of late years, probably on account of the reduced prices now paid for it at home. The tree that yields this product is *Daniellia thurifera*, a plant characteristic of the open forests of the "dry zone." It is extremely plentiful all over the hinterland.

No gum arabic is collected within the limits of Southern Nigeria.

70. (c) *Fibres*.—The trade in piassava fibre appears to have fallen off somewhat during 1906; the exports amounted to 5,414 packages, valued at £3,210, against 7,290 packages, valued at £4,052 in the previous year. In the Eket District where the bulk of the fibre is prepared, efforts are being made by some of the local agents of the European trading firms to encourage this industry as much as possible. Immense areas of swampy land in Southern Nigeria are occupied by the palms, *Raphia vinifera* and *Raphia Hookeri*, from which this fibre is procured.

71. There are other good fibre-yielding plants to be met with in the country, such as the tall shrub *Honkenya ficifolia*, the ubiquitous *Urena lobata* and the tree *Sterculia Barteri*, the best fibres of which are used by the natives for making strong durable ropes. It seems, however, to be a very difficult matter to get the natives to take up any industry, and very little headway is made unless a special organization is started to push the matter through.

72. (d) *Oil, Beans, and Seeds*.—A small trade was done in the seeds of the Dika nut tree, *Irvingia Barteri* and *Pentaclethra macrophylla*. Both these products are, however, used by the natives for food, and unless the prices offered at home improve, there will be but little inducement for them to start a regular industry in these seeds. The *Shea butter* tree *Bassia Parkii* (*Butyrospermum Parkii*—synonym), is very plentiful in some of the districts of the hinterland, more especially in the Western Province. Efforts are being made to interest the Yorubas in this trade, which is confined to regions in which the palm oil does not grow.

Agriculture.

73. *Experiments*.—The Provincial Forest Officer of the Western Province reports that a number of experimental crops were grown at Oloke Meji in addition to those in the ordinary routine of farm cultivation. The most important experiments were made with cotton, rice, and jute. Experiments were also made in the cultivation of tobacco, castor oil, bananas, and various leguminous crops.

74. Agriculture has lately made rapid strides in the Western Province, where the cultivation of cotton, maize, cocoa, and ground-nuts shows a very satisfactory increase for the year. The Yorubas as a race are keen agriculturists and quick, compared with other races of Southern Nigeria, to take advantage of any improvements in cultivation or recommendations brought to their notice.

75. There is ample scope for the extension of cocoa cultivation in the moist regions of the Central and Eastern Provinces.

where the climate is very favourable to the growth of that plant.

76. Ground-nuts should be more extensively cultivated than they are at present. This is a most useful crop to introduce into any system of crop rotation, more especially on the poor exposed soils of the interior, where the organic constituents are generally deficient.

77. An Agricultural Show held at Lagos towards the end of the year proved a great success. It was largely attended by natives from all parts of the Colony and Protectorate, and will no doubt give a great impetus to the interest taken in agriculture.

78. In the Western Province a large number of plants of economic importance were distributed during the year from the Oloke Meji Gardens to farmers and others interested in their cultivation. The totals amounted to 25,944 plants; 1,996 suckers; 629 lbs., 116 packets, and 1 box of seeds; 140 lbs. and 36 packets of tubers; and 38 bundles of grass.

The pupils attached to the Gardens have been put through a systematic course of instruction (which lasts for three years) in the propagation of plants, the essential conditions requisite for good growth, pruning, elementary botany, farming, and plantation work in the forests. They have been well reported on by the Curator. After the completion of this course the best pupils are generally given appointments in the more important native States and Districts.

79. The arboretum of wild indigenous plants has been increased and the plants properly labelled and identified, whilst the collection in the herbarium has been augmented by something like 200 specimens, which have been properly mounted and dried, duplicates being sent to Kew for identification.

80. A fair amount of plant distribution was done from the Onitsha Gardens and plantations in the Central Province. The locality, however, is not a good one for this purpose—it is too dry and far from the centres where the cultivation of crops such as cocoa, Para rubber, &c., can be successfully undertaken. The kitchen garden was well maintained and several kinds of European vegetables grown.

81. The stock farm at Onitsha was abandoned and the cattle either transferred to other districts or sold. Past experience has shown that this locality is too much infested by flies (*Glossina palpalis* and *Glossina fuscus*) for any success to be attained in the breeding of cattle.

82. The Botanical Gardens at Calabar, Eastern Province, were considerably extended in the direction of the new barracks and portions planted up with plants such as *Funtumia elastica*, *Ficus elastica*, *Castilloa*, and Para rubber. The latter have made excellent growth and average about 12 feet in height. Other plots of land were planted with fibre-yielding

plants such as Jute, *Honkenya ficifolia*, *Urena lobata*, and Ramie.

83. Considerable additions were made to the stock of tropical plants, more especially as regards fruit trees. The *Mangosteens*, *Lichis*, *Pomegranates*, &c., are doing well. The *Nipa* plantation across the river appears to be established, and the sago palms planted in the hollow in the Gardens are in excellent condition.

84. A stock farm was started at Calabar with a view to establishing a dairy. For this purpose three cows and some bull calves were imported from the Canary Islands. Unfortunately two of the former and one of the latter died during the year. The cause of death in the case of the cows was reported by the Medical Officer to be hypertrophic cirrhosis of the liver in the one case, and intestinal obstruction in the case of the calf.

The Medical Officer reported that the blood of the calf that died contained parasites similar to those found in the Indian disease (human) known as *Kala-azar*. In no case was trypanosomiasis infection detected.

Game Laws.

85. The number of elephant licences issued during 1906 in the Central Province was five, as compared with six in 1905. Some game reserves are being taken up, and it is to be hoped that a few areas at least will serve as sanctuaries for wild animals in the true sense of the word.

86. The only outcome of the present legislation on game preservation has been to limit the shooting of a few *bond fide* European sportsmen whilst the constant drain of animal life caused by literally tens of thousands of native hunters who shoot everything they see, night and day, in season and out of season, throughout the year remains unchecked.

Collection of Plants and Wild Products.

87. The importance of pushing on the Botanical Survey of Southern Nigeria has been kept in mind, and several collections of plants were made and forwarded to Kew for authoritative identification. The same has been done with wild products of economic importance, such as timber, oil seeds, fibres, edible fruit, &c.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

88. The chief legal event of the year has been the cancelling of the Letters Patent of 1886 constituting the Colony of Lagos and the revocation of the Orders in Council providing for the Administration of the Protectorates of Lagos and Southern

Nigeria, and the promulgation of Letters Patent and an Order in Council constituting the Colony of Southern Nigeria and providing for its Government, together with that of the Protectorate.

89. The Order in Council and the Letters Patent are dated the 16th February and the 28th February, respectively, but both came into operation on being proclaimed in the Colony on the 1st May. No change has as yet been made in the application of the laws, it being declared that all laws in force in any part of the territory prior to the commencement of the new system of government shall continue in force until further provision is made by the local legislature.

90. The legislation of the year has dealt with the registration of medical practitioners, the transfer of prisoners between the prisons of the Colony and Protectorate, the establishment of the Public Officers' Guarantee Fund, the regulation of the receptacles in which trade spirits may be imported, the naturalization of aliens, the expropriation of the Hausa Lands, and the survey of steamers carrying passengers, together with minor amendments of existing laws.

The following is a full list of all Ordinances, Proclamations, Orders, Rules, and Regulations made during the year:—

Ordinances.

- 1 of 1906. The Governor in Council Ordinance, 1906.
- 2 of 1906. The Trade Marks Amendment Ordinance, 1906.
- 3 of 1906. The Towns Police and Public Health Ordinance, 1906.
- 4 of 1906. The Sale of Palm Kernels Ordinance, 1906.
- 5 of 1906. The Registration of Medical Practitioners and Dentists Ordinance, 1906.
- 6 of 1906. The Transfer of Prisoners Ordinance, 1906.
- 7 of 1906. The Forestry Ordinance, 1906.
- 8 of 1906. The Travelling and Field Allowance Ordinance 1900 Repeal Ordinance, 1906.
- 9 of 1906. The Lights, Buoys, and Beacons Ordinance, 1906.
- 10 of 1906. The Trade Spirits (Regulation of Receptacles) Ordinance, 1906.
- 11 of 1906. The Naturalization of Aliens Ordinance, 1906.
- 12 of 1906. The Public Officers' Guarantee Fund Ordinance, 1906.
- 13 of 1906. The Hausa Lands Ordinance, 1906.
- 14 of 1906. The Passengers Steam Vessels Survey Ordinance, 1906.
- 15 of 1906. The Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1906.
- 16 of 1906. The Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1906.
- 17 of 1906. The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1906.
- 18 of 1906. The Pilotage and Harbour Ordinance, 1906.
- 19 of 1906. The Supply Ordinance, 1906.

Proclamations.

- 1 of 1906. The Customs Amendment Proclamation, 1906.
- 2 of 1906. The Customs Tariff Further Amendment Proclamation, 1906.
- 3 of 1906. The Public Officers' Guarantee Fund Amendment Proclamation, 1906.
- 4 of 1906. The Commissioners' Proclamation, 1906.
- 5 of 1906. The Niger Lands Transfer Proclamation, 1906.
- 6 of 1906. The Crown Lands Management Proclamation, 1906.
- 7 of 1906. The Native Courts Proclamation, 1906.
- 8 of 1906. The Lights, Buoys, and Beacons Proclamation, 1906.
- 9 of 1906. The Spirit Licence Amendment Proclamation, 1906.
- 10 of 1906. The Marriage Proclamation, 1906.

Orders.

- 1 of 1906. Order made under "The Commissioners Proclamation, 1900."
- 2 of 1906. Order made under "The Native Currency Proclamation, 1902."
- 3 of 1906. Order made under "The Towns Regulation Proclamation, 1905."
- 4 of 1906. Order made under "The European Reservation Proclamation, 1902."
- 5 of 1906. Order made under "The Customs Ordinance, 1894."
- 6 of 1906. Order made under "The Supreme Court Proclamation, 1900."
- 7 of 1906. Order made under "The Prisons Proclamation, 1900."
- 8 of 1906. Order made under "The Lights, Buoys, and Beacons Proclamation, 1906."
- 9 of 1906. Order made under "The Native Courts Proclamations, 1901 and 1903."
- 10 of 1906. Order made under "The Police Proclamation, 1902."
- 11 of 1906. Order made under "The Commissioners Proclamation, 1900."
- 12 of 1906. Order in Legislative Council made under "The Petroleum Ordinance, 1889."
- 13 of 1906. Order in Executive Council made under "The Customs Ordinance, 1876."
- 14 of 1906. Order made under "The Registration of Medical Practitioners and Dentists Ordinance, 1906."
- Order in Executive Council made under "The Supreme Court Ordinance, 1876."

Order in Executive Council made under "The Customs Ordinance, 1876."

Order in Executive Council made under "The Lights, Buoys, and Beacons Proclamation, 1900."

Order in Executive Council made under "The Diseases Exclusion Proclamation, 1904."

Order in Legislative Council made under "The Lights, Buoys, and Beacons Ordinance, 1890."

Order in Executive Council made under "The Customs Ordinance, 1876."

Rules and Regulations.

- 1 of 1906. Rules made under "The Post Office Amendment Proclamation, 1903."
- 2 of 1906. Rules made under "The Supreme Court Proclamation, 1900."
- 3 of 1906. Rules made under "The Forestry Proclamations, 1901 and 1905."
- 4 of 1906. Regulations under "The Northern Nigeria Registration of Imports and Exports Proclamation, 1906."
- 5 of 1906. Rules under "The Firearms Proclamation, 1902."
- 6 of 1906. Rules made under "The Hospitals and Dispensaries Proclamation, 1903."
- 7 of 1906. Rules made under "The Native Courts Proclamation, 1906."

V.—EDUCATION.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

91. Eight new Government Schools were opened in 1906, one of them being the new Girls' School at Onitsha. Of these schools, one was opened in the Western Province at Ayetoro, five in the Central Province (at Onitsha (2), Uromi, Agbor, and Sabon-gidda), and two in the Eastern Province (at Azumini and Eket). All these schools appear to have made a good start, and several of them are largely attended. The opening of the new buildings of the Lagos Mohammedan Government School was marked by a very large increase in attendance.

There are at present 31 Government Schools, four of them girls' schools, in the Colony and Protectorate, five in the Western Province, 17 in the Central Province, and nine in the Eastern Province.

92. It is a most hopeful phase of educational work in this Colony that a proposal to open a school is almost invariably welcomed by chiefs and people. Several District Commissioners have borne witness to the excellent effect produced in towns by the opening of a school. If the right type of schoolmaster can be obtained, the presence and example of an educated man in a "bush" village, all the inhabitants of which (with the possible exception of a Native Court Clerk) are wholly illiterate, will exercise a beneficial influence and will prove of assistance to the Government.

MISSION SCHOOLS.

93. The progress made by the Mission Schools generally has been a most satisfactory feature of the year's work. The average attendances in the old schools assisted by the Government are greatly in excess of those of any previous year. A large number of new schools have been opened in places where before there were no schools.

94. The Church Missionary Society.—The 14 schools of this Mission which are carried on in Lagos have continued their good work throughout the year. The Grammar School, which is the oldest secondary school in the Colony, showed an increased attendance. The results at the annual examination were not so good as the Managers of this School have a right to expect, and the same is true of the other secondary schools in Lagos, the Roman Catholic, St. Gregory's School, and the Wesleyan High School. Relatively, the primary schools in Lagos appear both in respect of teaching and discipline to be ahead of the secondary schools.

The Church Missionary Society Girls' Seminary is a well-managed school under efficient European control.

In the Brass District, the Church Missionary Society carries on well-managed schools at Twon and Nimbe. It is to be hoped that the withdrawal from Brass of the European missionaries, who took an active part in school work, will not have a deteriorating influence on these schools.

The Niger Delta Pastorate Mission, an off-shoot from the Church Missionary Society, carries on useful schools in the Bonny, Degama, and Opobo districts.

95. The Wesleyan Mission has seven schools in Lagos subject to Government inspection and in receipt of Government grants, including one secondary school, the Wesleyan High School. Useful work is carried on in the large primary schools conducted by this mission. There has been considerable difficulty hitherto in obtaining and retaining the services of suitable teachers, but it is hoped that the Training Institution which is carried on at Ibadan will gradually remove this obstacle.

96. The United Free Church of Scotland Mission continues to carry on excellent work in its mission schools at Calabar, and on the Cross River, where they have opened several new schools in the past year. The Hope Waddell Institute and the Duke Town Grammar School still continue to supply the educational needs of Calabar and district, and at Creek Town, near Calabar, there are well-managed schools for boys and girls.

The Hope Waddell Institute is one of the largest secondary schools in the Colony, and occupies five buildings erected by the Government at a cost of £12,000. It is hoped that this school will justify the expenditure incurred. With a large European staff, it is especially fitted to be a centre for the training of clerks, skilled mechanics, and teachers for Government service.

97. The Roman Catholics have a considerable number of schools in the Onitsha and Asaba districts of the Central Province, and in the Calabar district in the Eastern Province.

The Onitsha Mission deserves great credit for the excellent educational work of the past three years. Whereas in 1903 there were less than 200 children attending school in the whole of the Onitsha district, the Roman Catholic Fathers were recently able to present no less than 630 children in their schools in Onitsha alone, and there are, in addition, 11 new schools in the outlying district which have been admitted as Assisted Schools.

The Onitsha Convent girls' schools and similar establishments at Lagos and Calabar, are doing excellent work under able European supervision.

The Roman Catholic boys' school at Calabar, is largely attended and well conducted.

In Lagos, the Roman Catholic secondary school has already been referred to. The elementary school teaching of this mission is here, as elsewhere, very good. One of the principal reasons for the undoubted success of the Roman Catholic Missions in this country is the adequate and careful European control and supervision of the schools.

98. The United Native African Church has two schools at Lagos in receipt of Government grants.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION. (GOVERNMENT.)

99. The Bonny Government School made good progress during the year, especially in the matter of industrial teaching. The following classes were successfully conducted, the attendance being good and the work done satisfactorily: Carpentry, Coopering, Agriculture, Telegraphy, and Typewriting. The school has benefited by the appointment of an Assistant Principal, which should ensure unbroken European supervision.

100. The two technical schools for carpentry at Benin City and Warri have been working regularly throughout the year.

The quality of the work done in the shops has been satisfactory. The greater part of the furniture supplied to the schools in the province during the year was made in these schools.

MISSION INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT ASSISTED BY
GOVERNMENT.

101. At the Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar, there are Printing, Tailoring, and Carpentry Workshops in which apprentices are taught by European instructors, and it is hoped that in the future, while some of these apprentices find employment under the Government, others, more particularly those who have learnt carpentry, will practise their trades and teach others in their own towns and villages.

102. The Onitsha Industrial Mission, founded by Bishop Tugwell, employs apprentices at carpentry and furniture making under able European instruction. The house and office furniture made at this workshop has received high commendation from experts.

103. The Roman Catholic Mission at Onitsha has a useful carpenter's shop also under European control. Brickmaking and market gardening are also taught with considerable success.

Summary of Attendance.

104. It will be noticed that the average attendance continues to be very unsatisfactory. This is one of the great difficulties in the way of successful teaching in the Colony. At times of the year when labour is wanted on the farms the parents take the children away for weeks at a time.

ASSISTED SCHOOLS.					
	No. on Register		Total.	Average Attend- ance.	Grants earned by Examina- tion.
	Boys.	Girls.			
Lagos	3,530	1,335	4,865	2,837	£ s. d. 2 428 19 0
Central Province ...	1,550	111	1,661	1,285	515 18 0
Eastern Province ...	2,400	423	2,823	1,288	1,104 4 0
Total	7,480	1,869	9,349	5,410	4,049 1 0
GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.					
Lagos	649	2	651	537	—
Central Province ...	1,038	115	1,153	802	—
Eastern Province ...	728	11	739	470	—
Total	2,415	128	2,543	1,809	—

With regard to the return from Government Schools, it must be remembered that the majority of these schools have been opened for less than two years, and that their growth, though steady, is slow.

Subscriptions to Schools.

105. The following receipts were paid into Revenue in 1906 as local contributions to Government Schools:—

			Chiefs' Subscriptions.	School Fees.	Total.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Central Province	...	...	687 10 0	109 5 0	796 15 0
Eastern Province	...	...	191 0 0	833 19 0	1,024 19 0
Total	...	...	878 10 0	943 4 0	1,821 14 0

These figures include £678 18s. 0d. school fees received at Bonny Government School.

106. The difficulty of obtaining suitable head-teachers for primary schools has still to be overcome, for though Bonny Government School and the higher grade Mission Schools are giving a fair supply of promising pupil teachers there is no doubt that competent teachers are still difficult to obtain.

VI.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

LAGOS HOSPITAL.

European Section.

107. The accommodation for patients is as follows:—

European wards:

Ten beds—six male and four female; the average daily occupation being 3·3. There are four European Nurses attached to this Hospital; and besides nursing sick Europeans they supervise the nursing of the native wards, in which they take a great interest.

108. During the year the number of Europeans treated in the Hospital was as follows:—

Officials ... 61 (of whom 18 were Railway officials).
Non-officials ... 74

Treated ... 135 with 8 deaths.

Amongst the diseases treated were:

64 cases Malaria	...	...	...	2 deaths.
11 „ Blackwater-fever	...	...	...	3 „
8 „ Dysentery	...	...	...	1 death.
1 case of Necrosis	...	...	...	1 „
1 „ Morphinism	...	...	...	1 „

Native Section.

109. During the year 1906 the number of natives treated in the Hospital was 1,218, viz.:—

Officials	...	...	...	44
West African Frontier Force	...	...	...	237
Police	...	...	...	182
Paupers	...	...	...	755

Treated ... 1,218 with 91 deaths.

Yaba Leper Asylum.

110. During the year 1906 there were treated at the Asylum twenty-eight patients.

There was one death. Five absconded. One was sent back to his country. There remained at the Asylum at the end of the year twenty-one patients (thirteen males and eight females).

Calabar European Hospital.

111. The daily average number of cases in the Hospital was 2·2. There are five European Nurses with one native Nurse for this Hospital.

112. During the year 1906 155 cases were treated in the European Hospital, one of which terminated fatally.

Among the 155 cases treated, there were eight of Blackwater-fever, three of Filarial Infection, 73 of Malarial Fever, and 2 of Dysentery.

Twenty-three cases were invalided, 18 to Europe and five for a sea trip.

St. Margaret's Native Hospital, Calabar.

113. There were 798 cases treated, with 44 deaths, being 11 cases less and five deaths more than in the previous year. In addition, 7,129 out-patients received treatment. Two European Sisters from the Roman Catholic Mission are attached to the Hospital and assist in attending to female patients.

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

114. Among the less important Government institutions the following hospitals and asylums may be mentioned:—

A quarantine hospital was opened at Forcados, seven miles up the Elder River, away from the harbour.

The small native hospital at Warri was properly conducted, and a small European hospital, with two wards, has been opened at Sapeli.

The Lunatic Asylum at Calabar was used for criminal lunatics, but a larger and better constructed building was started during the year at Yaba, about four miles from Lagos. Hitherto lunatics from Lagos have been sent to Sierra Leone.

A beri-beri and isolation hospital, with two wards, has been opened at Bonny during the year. A native hospital is also on the point of completion, and was occupied during the last two months of the year. Hospitals for natives—well built in native fashion—are maintained throughout the districts of Southern Nigeria.

PRISONS.

115. There are 30 prisons in the Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria, an increase of seven compared with the number in existence at the end of 1905; and the total number of prisoners confined during the year throughout the prisons was 12,171. The prisons are all in good condition, and several have been rebuilt and enlarged. As necessity arises the older buildings will be dealt with similarly. New prisons have been built at Agbor, Ikom, Oka, and Forcados, and for the present meet the requirements of these districts.

116. There were 277 deaths during the year, compared with 274 in 1905, and 31 judicial executions. There were 89 escapes and 68 recaptures.

The total number of punishments inflicted was 964; of these 118 were corporal and 846 loss of marks, reduced diets, solitary confinements, &c.; the increase in punishments is attributed to the larger number of prisoners confined.

117. The earnings of the prisoners in the Colony and Protectorate during the year amounted to £16,873; and the expenditure on their maintenance, &c., to £22,230.

118. The health of the prisoners has been good and no serious epidemics have occurred. All prisons have been regularly visited by the Visitors of Prisons during the year, and their reports on prisoners and prisons were generally favourable. In the few instances when they were adverse, steps were at once taken to rectify the faults.

The Transfer of Prisoners Ordinance has been of great assistance in relieving overcrowding, and also enabled convicts to be moved to districts where their labour could be better utilized.

119. During the year great improvement was noticeable in the efficiency of the native staff, but there is still great difficulty experienced in obtaining the services of suitable men for prison duties.

VII.—CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

JUDICIAL REPORT.

Lagos.

120. The total number of persons brought before the Police Magistrate at Lagos and before the various District Commissioners of the Western Province presiding in their own District Courts, was 2,900, as against 2,420 in 1905. Of this number 188 were discharged for want of prosecution, 348 were discharged on the merits, 2,266 summarily convicted, and 98 committed for trial.

121. Though 98 persons were committed for trial in 1906 yet the Returns show 124 persons as having been tried at the Assizes (as against 81 in 1905). This discrepancy is due to the fact that the Assizes being held quarterly, persons committed for trial during the months of October, November, and December in any year are not tried before January of the next year.

The following table shows the number of cases dealt with in the various District Courts, the nature of the offences, and how they were disposed of:—

—	Number discharged failing prosecution or sufficient evidence.	Number of cases discharged.	Number of persons summarily convicted.	Number of persons committed for trial.
Offences against the Person—				
Lagos	32	30	116	1
Badagry	1	6	32	2
Epe... ..	3	9	35	—
Ikorodu	4	15	25	—
Shagamu	4	17	25	—
Ibadan	4	13	26	—
Abeokuta	1	1	8	—
Total	49	91	267	3
Cattle Stealing and Arson—				
Lagos	6	2	9	—
Badagry	—	3	32	3
Epe... ..	—	—	1	—
Ikorodu	—	1	3	—
Shagamu	—	1	5	—
Ibadan	—	1	3	—
Abeokuta	—	—	—	—
Total	6	8	53	3

	Number discharged failing prosecu- tion or sufficient evidence.	Number of cases discharged.	Number of persons summarily convicted.	Number of persons committed for trial.
Offences against Property other than Cattle Steal- ing and Arson—				
Lagos	41	59	230	11
Badagry	12	22	83	9
Epe... ..	3	11	37	—
Ikorodu	—	11	22	2
Shagamu	—	9	23	—
Ibadan	2	13	31	—
Abeokuta	8	12	18	—
Total	66	137	444	22
Offences against Master and Servants' Acts—				
Lagos	1	—	—	—
Badagry	—	—	—	—
Epe... ..	—	—	—	—
Ikorodu	—	—	—	—
Shagamu	—	—	—	—
Ibadan	—	—	—	—
Abeokuta	—	—	—	—
Total	1	—	—	—
Other Offences—				
Lagos	55	42	676	18
Badagry	1	36	257	18
Epe... ..	1	2	104	4
Ikorodu	6	8	190	11
Shagamu	—	12	182	7
Ibadan	3	7	48	11
Abeokuta	—	5	45	1
Total	66	112	1,502	70
Total Number of Persons Apprehended—				
Lagos	135	133	1,031	31
Badagry	14	67	406	32
Epe... ..	7	22	177	4
Ikorodu	10	35	240	13
Shagamu	4	39	233	7
Ibadan	9	34	108	11
Abeokuta	9	18	71	1
Total	188	348	2,266	99

Eastern and Central Provinces.

122. During the year 1906 the total number of cases dealt with by the Courts, not including the Native Courts, was 2,840, of which number 2,574 were tried by the Magistrates.

123. There was an increase in "Offences against the Person" of 111, and a decrease of 40 in "Offences against Property"; in "Other Offences" there was an increase of 485.

124. There were 247 prosecutions for burglary and larceny at Calabar in 1906, as contrasted with 234 in 1905.

125. On comparison of these figures with those of 1905 and other years the total shows a considerable increase, but this is due to the greater control of the area of jurisdiction, and also to the increased area brought under control, and the increase therefore will no doubt continue as time goes on.

126. There were 85 Native Courts in operation in 1906, the number of cases dealt with being 11,493 criminal and 25,520 civil. This represents a very great increase over the total for 1905, the number of criminal and civil cases in that year being 25,636. The increase may be ascribed to the more efficient work done by these Courts, and the greater supervision exercised over them.

Native Courts.

Table showing the number and classes of offences dealt with by the Native Courts, and how the cases were disposed of during 1906 :—

	Total.	Assaults.	Other offences against the Person.	Larceny.	Other offences against Property.	Offences against the Administration of Produce Proclamations 1902 and 1905.	Other Offences.
Convictions	7,134	1,061	859	649	560	120	3,845
Dismissals	2,355	373	785	325	223	7	692
Transfers to District Commissioner.	147	12	23	8	7	—	57
Cases otherwise disposed of	1,857	189	440	189	248	5	786
Totals	11,493	1,635	2,097	1,171	1,038	132	5,420

VIII.—CLIMATE.

TEMPERATURE.

127. The mean temperature at Lagos Observatory was 80·3°. The highest shade temperature, 99°, was recorded at Onitsha and Afikpo in March, Asaba in February, and Benin City in March; and the lowest 54·5° at Benin City in January.

RAINFALL.

128. The rainfall at stations on the coast is much heavier than at inland stations.

The maximum rainfall in 1906 was 251·49 inches at Egwanga, in the Eastern Province, and the minimum 40·92 inches at Olokemeji, in the Western Province.

The rainfall at Lagos was 74·76 inches, at Calabar 156·64 inches, at Bonny 142·26 inches.

The following table shows the rainfall during the year at stations where reliable registers were kept:—

Table showing the Rainfall (in inches) of Lagos and Out-stations during 1906.

Month.	Lagos.	Ondo.	Ibadan.	Olokemeji.	Badagry.	Epe.	Oshogbo.	Oyo.	Shaki.	Ilesha.	Ota.
January ..	1·04	·14	·06	·93	·62	1·22	—	—	*	—	—
February ..	2·18	1·09	·96	19	5·28	2·78	—	—	*	—	·67
March ..	1·11	3·13	2·35	1·71	2·92	·77	1·47	3·46	*	—	1·32
April ..	4·00	4·01	5·15	2·10	5·72	4·19	6·89	5·10	*	—	3·52
May ..	16·02	7·98	7·13	8·01	13·52	14·50	5·58	7·79	4·64	—	13·48
June ..	22·30	8·70	4·22	6·43	11·32	16·03	5·21	5·89	6·04	—	6·59
July ..	15·90	12·43	9·69	6·93	8·02	9·01	10·40	5·69	4·71	—	14·50
August ...	1·63	4·77	2·88	1·02	·82	4·03	1·75	1·59	2·77	—	1·62
September..	1·67	9·80	8·90	6·59	1·35	2·31	12·27	5·61	7·80	—	2·23
October ..	0·91	·78	3·17	4·31	4·26	4·53	3·90	6·94	7·46	—	2·85
November..	1·37	1·68	1·49	1·97	2·21	·86	—	1·68	—	—	·60
December..	·58	·28	·40	1·63	2·30	—	·27	2·85	—	—	—
Total ..	74·76	54·59	46·40	40·92	58·34	60·23	47·95	46·60	34·32	—	47·58

* No records available.

Eastern Province.

Month.	Bonny.	Egwanga.	Calabar.	Bende.	Obubra Hill.	Brass.	Degema.	Opobo.	Owerri.	Akko.	Akassa.	Ikot-Ekpene.
January ..	·77	·30	·40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
February ..	2·16	3·68	1·05	3·83	—	—	—	—	—	3·00	—	—
March ..	3·25	5·47	7·11	2·06	—	—	—	—	—	·20	—	—
April ..	9·82	12·07	14·73	11·19	—	—	—	—	—	6·81	—	—
May ..	14·12	26·34	17·99	10·87	—	—	—	—	—	13·46	—	—
June ...	19·37	56·70	13·10	10·13	—	—	—	—	19·17	4·70	—	—
July ..	21·38	41·65	28·52	8·37	—	—	—	—	23·75	18·80	—	—
August ..	6·58	26·84	18·37	17·66	—	—	—	—	—	19·10	—	—
September	24·01	33·93	24·68	12·90	—	—	—	—	22·49	19·07	—	—
October ..	15·30	25·28	19·34	9·52	—	—	—	—	12·05	5·63	—	—
November	21·10	13·85	5·65	—	—	—	—	—	1·21	—	—	—
December	4·40	5·18	5·70	·50	3·50	—	—	—	·57	—	—	—
Total..	142·26	251·49	156·64	87·08	3·50	—	—	—	80·14	90·77	—	—

Central Province.

Month.	Forcados.	Sapele.	Asaba.	Benin City.	Ifon.	Warri.	Abob.	Onitsha.
January ...	80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
February ...	6·57	2·15	1·53	2·15	—	—	—	1·41
March ...	5·87	3·89	—	4·95	—	—	—	·77
April ...	4·46	9·21	4·48	3·85	—	—	—	5·95
May ...	11·34	9·41	2·49	10·47	3·80	—	—	9·69
June ...	8·14	15·55	3·58	3·06	6·80	—	—	4·03
July ...	13·20	14·73	1·79	16·32	1·49	—	—	4·74
August ...	13·35	14·78	4·26	12·34	2·33	—	—	15·60
September ...	13·85	16·33	15·36	17·12	7·90	—	—	9·25
October ...	13·65	17·24	10·53	17·07	4·85	—	—	6·35
November ...	2·95	2·90	·25	4·44	—	—	—	·27
December ...	4·15	·50	—	1·43	—	—	—	·15
Total ...	98·33	106·69	44·27	93·30	27·17	—	—	58·21

IX.—VITAL STATISTICS.

129. There are no means of ascertaining or even of estimating approximately the native population. Officers acquainted with the various parts of the hinterland have formed estimates of the population, which, added together, give the following figures:—

Western Province	...	...	...	3,000,000
Eastern Province	...	...	...	1,500,000
Central Province	...	...	...	1,585,000

130. The births and deaths registered form but a very small proportion of those which have actually taken place, and therefore the figures are of no value in considering the statistics of the whole country.

131. In the Eastern and Central Provinces accurate statistics have been prepared for the European section of the community; it is unfortunate that equally reliable statistics for the Western Province have not been kept, but an estimate of the European population has been made and death statistics have been kept in Lagos and Ebute Metta, which include the deaths of Europeans throughout the province.

132. The European population resident in the Colony and Protectorate on the 31st December, 1906, as obtained from the results of the returns from the various districts, is 1,022, distributed as follows:—

Western Province	...	...	...	...	400
Eastern Province	...	...	...	...	349
Central Province	...	...	...	...	273

1,022

133. The following table shows the various districts in the Eastern and Central Provinces in which the European population is distributed and the deaths and invalidings which have taken place during the year. Similar figures are not available for the Western Province.

Return of the European Population as on 31st December, 1906, and of the Invalidings and Deaths, during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1906.

Provinces and Districts.	Males.			Females.			Total.	Invalided		Rate per 1,000.	Deaths.		Rate per 1,000.
	Officials.	Traders.	Mission- aries.	Officials.	Traders.	Mission- aries.		Officials.	Non- officials.		Officials.	Non- officials.	
Central Province—													
Warri	12	29	—	—	—	—	41	—	1	24·3	—	—	—
Forcados	4	21	—	—	—	—	25	1	2	120	—	—	—
Sapele	5	42	—	—	—	—	47	3	—	63·83	—	1	21·27
Benin City	14	21	—	—	—	—	35	3	1	114·28	1	1	57·14
Ifon	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Idah	1	2	3	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onitsha Asaba ..	24	22	27	—	—	19	92	1	3	43·47	2	1	32·6
Aboh	3	6	1	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	1	—	100
Isham	2	2	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Agbor	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	333·3
Kwale	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oka.. ..	3	2	1	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	1	—	166·6
Eastern Province—	74	148	32	—	—	19	273	8	7	—	6	3	—
Calabar	44	51	21	5	2	22	145	—	1	6·89	1	1	13·8
Eket	1	4	7	—	—	5	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ikot-Ekpene	8	2	2	—	—	7	19	1	—	52·6	—	1	52·6
Uyo.. ..	1	—	3	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Owerri	5	3	—	—	—	—	8	1	—	125	1	—	125
Brass	4	8	2	—	—	1	15	—	—	—	1	—	66·6
Akassa	13	1	—	—	—	—	14	1	1	142·8	—	—	—
Bonny	7	13	—	—	—	—	20	1	2	150	—	—	—
Degema	1	31	—	—	—	—	32	1	1	62·5	—	1	31·25
Ahoada	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aba	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Opobo	1	36	—	—	—	—	37	—	2	54·05	—	2	54·05
Ikem	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	250
Obubra	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Afikpo	11	2	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bende	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—	400	—	—	—
Aro-Chuku	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abakaliki	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
	193	300	67	5	2	55	622	15	14	46·62	9*	9*	28·93

* In addition to these figures five Europeans died on steamers.

DEATHS.

Western Province.

134. The following figures have been given in connection with the deaths among Europeans during 1906:—

Comparative table showing deaths among European population of Lagos and Ebute Metta from malaria and blackwater fever in 1900, 1905, and 1906.

Year.	Popula- tion.	Officials.		Non-Officials.		Total.	
		Black- water.	Malaria.	Black- water.	Malaria.	Black- water.	Malaria.
1900 ...	233	0	5	7	10	7	15
1905 ...	—	2	1	2	6	4	7
1906 ...	400	1	0	4	5	5	5

135. Anti-mosquito work started and quinine prophylaxis first became prevalent during the latter part of 1900. It is to be noted that more influence can be brought to bear on officials than on other European residents as to taking quinine and early treatment.

Eastern and Central Provinces.

136. During the past year, as will be seen from the foregoing table, the Central Province has suffered most, in spite of the strenuous efforts which have been made in every direction to improve the sanitation and the conditions of living in the various stations. There were six deaths among officials and three deaths among non-officials from a population of 273; and in addition five deaths occurred on board steamers in Forcados harbour.

137. In the Eastern Province the number of deaths recorded is three officials and six non-officials.

138. On the whole, although the death-rate is considerably higher than in 1905, the health of the Europeans was better than it has been for years, for only 29 Europeans were invalided during the year, as compared with 88 in 1905, the next best figure during the last five years being 42 in 1904.

139. The following table gives the average death and invaliding rates for the five years 1902-1906:—

Comparative European Vital Statistics for Five Years.

Year.	Number.	Died.	Invalided.	Death-rate per 1,000.	Invalidings per 1,000.
Officials :—					
1902	125	3	31	24	248
1903	159	2	27	12·57	169·84
1904	157	7	18	44·58	114·64
1905	199	5	43	35·1	216
1906	198	9	15	45·45	75·75
Non-Officials :—					
1902	279	8	17	28·67	60·93
1903	301	10	27	33·22	89·70
1904	343	12	24	34·98	69·97
1905	334	7	45	20·9	134·7
1906	424	9	14	21·2	33
Total Euro- peans :—					
1902	404	11	48	27·22	118·81
1903	460	12	54	26·08	117·79
1904	500	19	42	38	84
1905	533	12	88	22·5	165·1
1906	622	18	29	28·93	46·62

140. It will be noticed that the death and invaliding rates among officials are considerably higher than among non-officials. This is no doubt because the officials undergo more exposure than the non-officials, who carry on their business generally at well-established centres, except those employed in the timber industry, whereas the officials are in many cases engaged in opening up new country and improving the methods of Government in up-country districts where the conditions of life are more difficult owing to lack of proper housing accommodation, sanitation, and to the necessity of living to a great extent on tinned food.

141. The rapid progress of these territories has necessitated a large increase in staff, and, although special attention has been paid to sanitation and the conditions of living, officials as a whole have had to live under very trying circumstances, especially in the Central Province and up the Cross River in the Eastern Province. At the same time the question of providing suitable accommodation for officers continues to receive special attention, and the building of quarters is being continually carried on, so that it is hoped during the next few years to provide proper quarters for the European staff, without whose energetic and cheerful work, frequently given under 'most trying conditions, the administration of the country could not possibly be carried on.

X.—REGISTRAR-GENERAL.

MARRIAGES.

Western Province.

142. Sixty-one Christian marriages were registered in 1906, of which four were by Special Licence. One church was licensed for the celebration of marriages.

Marriage fees collected—£42 15s.

Eastern and Central Provinces.

143. The number of marriages registered as having taken place during the year was 80 against 74 in 1905, an increase of six. Of these 48 were celebrated in Calabar district, three in Afikpo, 12 in Uyo, 16 in Onitsha, one in Benin City. Sixty-four marriages were solemnized by the Church and the remaining 16 according to native custom.

District Registrars are accountable for fees collected under this head as they are made payable to them.

INSTRUMENTS AFFECTING LAND.

Eastern and Central Provinces.

144. Four leases of lands were added this year to the Register of Government Deeds, three for lands in Calabar and one in Warri.

Thirty-three Instruments were registered during the year, namely 21 leases, 10 powers of attorney, one transfer of power of attorney and one notice to terminate lease.

Seven leases out of the above number were granted by the Government to various European firms and individuals.

The fees collected amounted to £25.

Western Province.

145. The sum of £235 8s. 9d. was collected for the year in fees for the registration of Instruments affecting lands, copying documents, searching the registers, &c.

PATENTS.

146. No patent for any invention was granted during the year in any of the Provinces.

TRADE MARKS.

Eastern and Central Provinces.

147. There were eight trade marks registered during the year and 11 applications, four of which were successfully opposed; the remainder have been published in the "Gazette."

Fees collected, which include fees for searches in the Register, &c., amounted to £29 1s. 6d., as against £23 17s. 0d. in 1905.

Western Province.

148. There were 39 applications filed for registration of trade marks and 16 trade marks were registered. Trade marks' fees collected amounted to £43.

XI.—POSTAL SERVICE.

149. The development of the business of the Postal Department has been commensurate with the general advancement of the Colony, and there are large increases recorded in all the principal branches of the Department. During the year considerable improvements have been made in the post offices throughout the Colony and Protectorate, and especially at Lagos and Calabar. On the amalgamation of Lagos with Southern Nigeria an officer was appointed in sole charge of the Post Office, the Telegraphs which had hitherto been carried on in conjunction with the Post Office in Southern Nigeria and with the Public Works in Lagos being placed under a separate Department. This arrangement relieves the Post Office of a considerable amount of work and responsibility and allows the Postmaster-General to devote his whole time to the development of his Department, on which the demands of the public are steadily increasing.

ORDINARY CORRESPONDENCE.

150. The number of ordinary letters, post-cards, newspapers, and book packets which passed through the Post Office during 1906 is estimated at 1,701,466, being 214,711 in excess of the number dealt with in 1905. The figures for the years 1902-1906 are as follows:—

Year.	Number.
1902 	920,237
1903 	1,081,409
1904 	1,277,983
1905 	1,486,755
1906 	1,701,466

REGISTERED CORRESPONDENCE.

151. The number of registered letters and other articles which passed through the Post Office during 1906 was 90,501. In the previous year the total was 69,642. There is thus an

increase of 20,859. The figures for the years 1904-1906 are as follows:—

Year.	Number.
1904	62,278
1905	69,642
1906	90,501

INSURED CORRESPONDENCE.

152. The number of insured letters and other articles, not including parcels, dealt with in 1906 was 80. In the previous year the total under this head was 101. There has therefore been a decrease of 21, due probably to the confidence reposed by the public in the registration system.

153. The following table shows the number of insured letters, &c., dealt with during the years 1904-1906:—

Year.	Number.
1904	56
1905	101
1906	80

PARCELS.

154. The total number of parcels dealt with during the year was 35,636, being an increase of 4,588 as compared with 1905.

155. The system of insurance of valuable parcels was taken advantage of in 2,308 cases during the year.

156. The following is a statement of parcels dealt with during the years 1902-1906:—

Year.	Number.
1902	19,798
1903	24,711
1904	26,815
1905	31,048
1906	35,636

MONEY ORDERS.

157. The total value of money orders issued in 1906 was £54,257 18s. 0d., being an increase of £2,566 14s. 10d. on the transactions of the previous year, the total for which was £51,671 3s. 2d.

158. The value of money orders received during the year amounted to £29,421 6s. 8d., being an increase of £2,393 3s. 2d. on the previous year's figures, which were £27,028 3s. 6d.

159. The transactions with the United Kingdom in 1906 amounted to £29,117 7s. 8d., being £2,735 14s. 1d. less than in the preceding year; but this decrease is more than accounted for by the large increase of £3,623 18s. 0d. in the value of

postal orders sold, the latter being more generally used than money orders for remitting small sums.

160. The following table shows the value of money orders received and issued during the years 1902-1906:—

Year.						Issues.			Receipts.		
						£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1902	...	...	...	...	...	32,206	5	5	13,492	13	11
1903	...	...	...	...	...	40,085	7	2	14,041	8	4
1904	...	...	...	...	...	45,022	17	0	18,811	3	4
1905	...	...	...	...	...	51,671	3	2	27,028	3	6
1906	...	...	...	...	...	54,257	18	0	9,421	6	8

POSTAL ORDERS.

161. The total number of postal orders sold during the year was 9,184, with a value of £4,688 13s. 6d. In 1905 the figures were 2,273 and £1,064 15s. 6d. respectively.

162. The number of postal orders paid in 1906 was 1,343, with a total value of £972 5s. 0d. In the preceding year the figures were 542 and £382 18s. 4d. respectively.

163. The postal order system was introduced into the Western Province in March, 1905, and from the commencement of the current year the system was extended to all offices in the Eastern and Central Provinces.

164. The following is a statement of postal orders sold and paid during the years 1905-1906:—

Year.			Sold.		Paid.	
			No.	Value.	No.	Value.
				£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1905	...	...	2,273	1,064 15 6	542	382 18 4
1906	...	...	9,184	4,688 13 6	1343	972 5 0

MAIL SERVICES.

165. The following additional internal mail services were established during the year:—

Itu to Aka	} Weekly services.
Itu to Ikot Ekpene	
Ikot Ekpene to Uyo	
Sapele to Kwale	
Benin City to Ifo	
Benin City to Agbor	

166. The mail services between Bonny-Akassa and Bonny-Degema *via* Bakana, hitherto performed by canoes, have during the year been replaced by launch services. This change considerably expedites the delivery of mails to persons resident in these districts.

XII.—TELEGRAPHS.

167. During the year a considerable amount of construction work has been carried out in the three Provinces.

In the Western Province a direct wire (200 lb. copper) was erected between Lagos and Ibadan (128 miles) on the railway and handed over for working in June, 1906.

The Ibadan-Akure section (150 miles) was completed but further clearing was found necessary owing to frequent interruptions due to falling trees in the dense forests through which this line passes. Considerable progress was made with the clearing, which will be completed, it is hoped, together with a bicycle patrolling track along the line, in 1907.

168. Between Ibadan and Oyo the wooden poles were replaced by iron poles, and the wire, where damaged, renewed.

169. The Lagos-Forcados coast line, which consisted of an iron wire, was replaced between Lagos and Omulume by a copper wire, and since then has been working well to Leckie and Benin River. Between Benin River and Forcados, however, the cables have failed and a mile and a half of the Forcados River cable was carried away in a tornado by drifting buoys and tugs. In the Escravos and Benin Rivers the cable had become completely worn out. It therefore became necessary either to renew the cables or to close the line; it was decided to close the line temporarily and to provide new cables in 1907.

170. In the Central and Eastern Provinces during the year 181 miles of poles and 193 miles of wire were erected, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of cable laid, making an aggregate, since the commencement of the work, of 344 miles of poles and 357 miles of wire erected and 5 miles of cable laid.

171. Offices were opened at Agbor, Asaba, Onitsha, Oka, Oguta, and Owerri, quarters for the clerks and linesmen being provided in each case; except at Onitsha, where a permanent building costing £365 was provided, the offices and quarters were built of mud with mat roofs, and of a uniform design throughout. The furniture for the offices and all the fittings were provided by the Public Works Department, the cost of such offices furnished and properly fitted, together with quarters, averaging about £100 each.

172. Four parties consisting on an average of two European foremen, one interpreter, four native headmen, 46 labourers and two linesmen, worked for a total of 158 weeks. Two of the parties were disbanded for six months owing to the large number of foremen due for leave. Very conveniently their leave coincided with the rainy season.

173. The telegraphs in Southern Nigeria have been constructed through country which presents many great difficulties, and in order to prevent the inconvenience of delay due to interruptions caused chiefly by falling timber, alternative routes are being provided. The telegraphs have advanced ahead of the roads, and have penetrated through and opened up a considerable portion of the territory of Southern Nigeria, and, as roads, motor-transport, and railways follow through the territories thus opened up, many of the initial difficulties with which the telegraphs have had to contend will disappear.

174. The following list shows the position of the Department on 31st December, 1906:—

Telegraph Offices (including railway) ...	51
Miles Telegraph Wire	1,640
„ „ Cables	44 $\frac{3}{4}$
Number of Telegrams (excluding railway)	152,054
Value of Inland Paid Telegrams	£1,321
„ „ „ Official „	£3,382
Value of Telegrams for abroad handed in at Government Offices:—	
Private	£1,888
Official	£845

XIII.—LANDS SURVEY.

175. The work of this Department has been chiefly topographic and geodetic, comprising mainly accurate theodolite traverses and refined telegraphic exchanges, for the purpose of establishing absolute and independent checks on the theodolite work, where “closes” were not possible.

176. The theodolite work now amounts to about 1,500 miles, and this has been checked by 14 telegraphic exchanges for longitude.

177. About 1,800 plots have been measured abutting on the Lagos Railway line, commencing at about the 33rd mile-post and continuing to the 60th.

178. A large contour survey has also been carried out at the source of the Ilo River, in connection with the proposed water-supply of Lagos.

179. A considerable amount of survey work has been carried out for other Departments, including (a) survey, location, and laying out of a tram-line from Five Cowrie Creek to the dejection jetty in connection with the new scheme of sewage disposal; (b) survey and levelling of portion of Iddo Island for filling in and improvement purposes; (c) a series of surveys and soundings on the Bar in connection with the bar improvement scheme; and (d) survey and soundings at Apapa for the development of the slipway scheme.

180. An important survey has been carried out at Ebute Metta, which has defined and detailed the greater part of the large area expropriated by Government in that locality; each holding and Crown grant has been described on approved methods, and the streets have been projected with a view to causing the least possible inconvenience to the property holders and enabling a proper system of drainage and sanitation to be carried out. Concrete pillars have been placed at the corners of each section, so that the Town Warden can see that a proper alignment is established.

181. A similar principle has been adopted in Lagos, but the congested state of the buildings has greatly hampered operations.

182. The important expropriations during the year were (a) at the Race Course for building purposes; (b) at Ebute Metta for railway buildings; and (c) at Victoria Street, for purposes of street improvement.

183. The total areas and amounts paid in each expropriation are given in the table below:—

Locality.			Area.	Total amount paid.
				£
Race Course	...	...	2 acres 3 roods 27 poles	4,279
Ebute Metta	...	...	about 3 acres	1,859
Victoria Street	...	...	" ½ acre	437

XIV.—PUBLIC WORKS.

184. The principal works executed during the year are given below:—

WESTERN OR LAGOS PROVINCE.

Principal Works.	Completed and in Progress.	Total Cost or Amount Spent during the year.	
Lieut.-Governor's House	Completed.	£ 918	Lagos share.
Force Road Quarters Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4	"	5,140	Total cost.
1st Class Rest House	In progress.	—	—
2nd Class Rest House	"	—	—
New Transit Shed, Customs	Completed.	1,036	Total cost.
Apapa Slipway and Workshops	Workshops nearly completed.	5,382	Spent.
New Government Offices	In progress.	2,000	" "
New Mohammedan School, Isalegangan	Completed.	610	Total cost.
New Offices and Stores for W.A.F.F.	"	2,214	" "
King's Cottage, Ibadan Rest House for the Governor.	"	1,950	" "
Offices and Quarters for Divisional Engineer, I.B.	"	668	" "
Quarters and Offices for Inspector of Works at Aro.	"	419	" "
New Police Barracks, Epe	In progress.	590	Spent.
Additions to Hospital, Epe	Completed.	400	Total cost.
Erection of Engine House and Boiler, Government Printing Office.	In progress.	108	Spent.
Repairs, Prince Eleko's Palace	"	100	—
Investigation, Ho Water Supply	Work to be undertaken.	92	—
Fence Yaba Asylum	Completed.	247	—
Additions to Club House	"	518	—

EASTERN PROVINCE.

Calabar and Cross River Divisions.

Principal Works.	Completed and in Progress.	Total Cost or Amount Spent during the year.	
Removal of Barracks	Completed.	£ 7,493	Total cost.
Artizans' Quarters	"	1,211	" "
Engineer's Shop, Queen Beach	"	3,105	" "
Additional Verandah to Force House	"	676	" "
Verandah, P.W.D. House	"	300	" "
Drainage and Sanitation, Duke Town	"	1,936	" "

EASTERN PROVINCE—*cont.**Calabar and Cross River Divisions—cont.*

Principal Works.	Completed and in Progress.	Total Cost or Amount Spent during the year.	
		£	
Extension of Printing Office	Completed.	270	Total cost.
Police Barracks Extensions	"	401	" "
Four Latrines, Duke Town	"	449	" "
Extension of Transport Store, Queen Beach.	In progress.	431	Spent.
Drainage, Government Hill to River...	"	184	"
Additional Quarters, Itu	"	1,058	"
New Offices, Eket	Completed.	146	Total cost
Offices and Stores, Okunni	"	360	"
Prison, Obubra	"	217	" "
BONNY.			
Light Iron Jetty	In progress.	311	Spent.
Removal of Tunnichiffe Jetty	"	195	"
Police Office and Store... ..	"	191	—
Hospital and Dispensary	"	195	—
EGWANGA.			
Light Iron Jetty	"	386	Spent.
District Store	"	96	"
Dis rict Stables	"	77	"
DETAMA.			
Hospital	"	182	"
Prison Staff Quarters	"	100	"
AKASSA.			
Refrigerating Plant	Completed.	234	Total cost.
Lighthouse	In progress.	426	Spent.

CENTRAL PROVINCE.

Principal Works.	Completed and in Progress.	Total Cost or Amount Spent during the year.	
		£	
Quarters for Provincial Commissioner	Completed.	2,600	Total cost.
Officers' Quarters and Rest House ...	"	1,631	" "
Billiard Room	"	624	" "
School Buildings	"	1,000	" "
Sanitary Station, Forcados	"	1,041	" "
Iron Pier, Warri Point	"	917	" "
Native Hospital, Forcados	"	329	" "
Clerk's Quarters, Forcados	"	656	" "
Rest House, Sapele	"	574	" "
European Ward Hospital, Sapele ...	"	542	" "

CENTRAL PROVINCE—*cont.*

Principal Works.	Completed and in Progress.	Total Cost or Amount Spent during the year.	
		£	
School Buildings, Sapele	Completed.	121	Total cost.
Extension to Verandahs of Bungalows, Sapele.	"	513	" " "
Establishment of New Stations	"	200	" "
Quarters at New Stations	"	703	" "
Civil Police Barracks, Warri	"	128	" "
New Roofs to Bungalows, Forcados ...	"	277	" "
Brick Tank for Water Storage, Ifon	"	521	" "
Transport Store, Forcados	"	507	" "
Leper Settlement, Onitsha	"	804	" "
Haulage Gear, F.W.D. Yard to River Onitsha.	"	453	" "
Military Quarters, Onitsha	In progress.	157	Spent.
European Hospital and Dispensary ...	"	594	"
Civil Police Quarters	Completed.	240	Total cost.
New Prison, Aboh	"	448	" "
Coal Store, Idah	"	246	" "
Onitsha Bridge over N'Kissi	"	854	" "

WESTERN PROVINCE.

185. Public Buildings and Works were maintained in a satisfactory manner, and the condition of Government property is, generally speaking, satisfactory, but a few of the older buildings are still much in need of repair or reconstruction; as, however, the cost would in most cases be beyond the means of the vote for Works Annually Recurrent, they have received only superficial attention until such time as funds can be provided for special repairs.

186. The money available was distributed as evenly as the several cases permitted, but there was an unusually large proportion expended on buildings in Lagos town arising out of the necessity for altering, extending, or re-arranging quarters and offices for the increase of staff due to the amalgamation of the Colony with the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria.

187. The re-forming and metalling of the principal streets of Lagos is the most important work of public improvement that has ever been undertaken in the town. No one who traverses the Marina or Victoria Road can fail to appreciate the change that two years have accomplished in these, the two most important thoroughfares of the town. The unsightly cross-drains which were an obstacle and a source of danger to traffic have all been converted into culverts and the roadway has been made continuous from end to end in each case.

188. The formation of the roadway from the terminus of the Marina at Kokomaiko was continued beyond Five Cowrie Creek bridge to a point near the firing range on the beach road in the direction of the signal station, and a branch road was made up Force Road past the Force quarters encircling the race course to rejoin the Marina by way of Prison Street near the hospital.

189. Besides the improvements to the road surface itself these alterations have involved the reconstruction of surface drains and the opening of new ones, which must have a beneficial effect upon the sanitation of the town. For the last three years there has been continuous activity in this direction to an extent never before attempted, and seldom fully realized or appreciated. Month by month the work goes on in an unobtrusive manner in the narrow lanes and alleys of the town, where it is so easy for the residents to escape the vigilance of sanitary inspectors, and where rubbish, which is now removed in the daily operation of sweeping down and cleansing the drains, was allowed to fester and pollute the atmosphere.

190. The filling in of swamps and the reclamation and protection of the foreshores has been carried on consistently and systematically for some years past; and the work done in the former direction within the limits of the town of Lagos, while it hardly represents one-half of the whole task undertaken, has greatly improved the localities affected, increasing their salubrity and enhancing the value of property situated in them.

191. It is reported that the past year has been marked by a degree of activity in the building trades never before attained in Lagos. Not only does this remark apply to Government Departments, but private firms have been equally active. The result has been a scarcity of skilled labour from time to time; but this has been met by the return of native artificers from other parts of the Coast whither they had gone in search of employment when work was scarce in their own town. The supply of labour has been, generally speaking, up to the demand, and quality and workmanship have steadily improved.

192. The Lagos artificers compare very favourably with those of other native races in their aptitude for carpentry, joinery, and bricklaying, but they do not show the same readiness or proficiency in the working of metals. This is not a little remarkable, because the first-named trades are, in their character, comparatively modern, never having been practised before the arrival of alien races, whereas the working of iron and brass has been a recognized trade, though followed perhaps only by isolated communities, for centuries. The mining, smelting, and subsequent treatment of iron was an art introduced into this country at a period so remote that it is now only matter for surmise; yet it is difficult to secure appren-

tices to the smith's trades, and when obtained they take much longer to become proficient than in the case of other crafts.

193. Eight new buildings destined for use as quarters were either commenced or completed in Lagos town during the year, a sum of over £11,000 being spent. In addition to these a portion of the west wing of the much needed public offices was commenced. The building has been designed with a view to utility rather than beauty, the ornate being usually superfluous in the case of buildings erected in the tropics, where by reason of climatic conditions it is difficult to combine utility with architectural merit. But the details have been skilfully worked out by the architect, and the building, when completed, should form a handsome addition to the public buildings of West Africa, as well as proving convenient and well lighted and ventilated.

194. The electric light service was efficiently maintained, and with the improvements which have been made in the generating station interruptions have been considerably fewer than formerly. Those interruptions which have occurred have been principally due to the effects of storms.

195. Among the miscellaneous services, probably the most important were those in connection with the exploration of the Ilo Valley for the purpose of securing a supply of water for the town of Lagos. The source examined is situated at a distance of about 20 miles from Lagos, a little to the south of the town of Otta, where a perennial stream of good water issues from a stratum of fine white sand, and constitutes the headwaters of the Ilo River. The investigations proved the supply to be abundant and the quality unusually good for West Africa.

EASTERN PROVINCE.

196. The principal works carried out during the year under review comprised the continuation of the removal of the barracks to a site to the southward of Government Hill, where, so far as the work has proceeded, an excellent cantonment has been established. It still remains, however, to transfer the artillery from their old quarters on Government Hill to the new site and, upon the accomplishment of this, the removal will be complete.

197. An engineer's shop was erected on Queen Beach for the Marine Department—a substantial and conveniently arranged building, the lighting and ventilation being excellent. A considerable number of improvements and additions and other smaller works were carried out in connection with existing buildings in Calabar, the whole of which have been maintained in an efficient manner.

198. The drainage and sanitation of Duke Town is one of those undertakings which, although the progress must, by

reason of the character of the work, necessarily be slow, tends very surely towards the improvement of sanitary conditions. The reclamation of Duke Town Swamp was continued, and but little now remains to complete the work. The land so recovered must in time become a valuable building and trading site, and it is matter for satisfaction that the sums accruing from the sale of such lands usually more than cover the cost of the reclamation works.

199. The works undertaken in outstations of the Eastern Province, in what were formerly the Cross River and the Eastern Divisions respectively, were of great variety, but few were of any magnitude. The principal items were the extensions and additions to the Itu Rest House, rendering the building commodious and well arranged. The Rest House originally stood on the eastern bank of the river, on land inundated during the rainy season, but has now been transferred to the top of the hill on the opposite bank. The change may be readily understood to be beneficial in the highest degree. The removal of the old building was considerably simplified on account of its having been constructed of wood and iron; but the additions have been carried out in brickwork and other permanent materials.

CENTRAL PROVINCE.

200. The establishment of Provincial Headquarters at Warri, and the consequent influx of officers from outstations, have naturally focussed the activity in that station. The programme of works included a residence for the Provincial Commissioner, which is among the most conveniently arranged and best appointed houses to be seen in Southern Nigeria. Quarters were also commenced, and nearly completed, for three officers. A Club House has also been built. All these buildings stand on slightly elevated ground abutting on the river in a situation as salubrious as it is picturesque.

201. Among the other buildings erected at this station were commodious and well arranged school buildings, with quarters for the headmaster and assistants and a dormitory, a police office and store, and a medical store and dispensary and native staff quarters. There was also constructed by the Public Works Department, at the cost of the local authorities, an excellent Native Court House, to which has been added a clock tower with a public clock. Warri has now emerged from the primitive condition of a "bush station," and is in a fair way to become a credit to the Province of which it is now the capital. The progress made of recent years is very striking in view of the fact that every foot of ground on which the station has been built has been won from the dense forest and mangrove swamps which still surround the town.

202. At Forcados there were a number of new buildings erected, including a transport store built in response to appeals

from the British Cotton Growing Association for improved facilities of this nature in connection with transport on the Niger, a Native Hospital, and two blocks of clerks' quarters erected in substitution for those now standing on Pigeon Beach at an inconvenient distance from the offices. A quarantine station was built on a clearing on the creek above Warri Point, and a commencement was made in the construction of an iron pier for the accommodation of ocean steamers at Forcados.

203. The reclamation of land and the construction of roads across the swamps was also proceeded with. Satisfactory results have been achieved as far as the work has gone, and it is not now necessary, as it was but a year or two ago, for the district officials to attire themselves in sea boots in order to walk from their quarters to their offices.

204. There was general activity in building operations in outstations of the Province, the principal items being:—

Sapele:—

A new Rest House.

A new European Hospital and Dispensary, Stables, &c.

Benin City:—

Quarters for Clerical Staff.

Brick Tanks.

Sanitation and Drainage work around European quarters, &c.

A number of smaller works were undertaken at Ifon, Agbor, Kwale, and Ishan; and a new customs station was opened at Koko Town, a jetty being built there.

205. The development of Onitsha as the principal station on the Niger under the Southern Nigeria Government has been proceeded with—a task which is facilitated by the many natural advantages which the town possesses. A commencement was made on the new European hospital and military quarters; and the native hospital, dispensary, &c., and barracks for the Civil Police, were completed.

A leper settlement was commenced on the banks of the Anambra River, but the progress was slow and the work remained uncompleted at the close of the year.

206. Throughout the Province the public buildings and works were maintained, generally speaking, in a satisfactory manner. There has been from time to time in the past a dearth of labour, both skilled and unskilled, and the quality of the former is not usually of a high order. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in procuring good artificers for work in the Niger valley owing to its unhealthiness, the scarcity of supplies, and the savage character of the tribes inhabiting it. Its evil reputation in these respects has no doubt operated in the past as a deterrent upon the more peaceable and civilized races of Lagos, the Gold Coast, and

Sierra Leone, who might otherwise have emigrated to it; but, since the amalgamation, it is noticed that the Yoruba traders move more freely and confidently about this part of the country.

XV.—ROADS.

207. The scheme of road construction has made considerable progress during the year; and the work has been vigorously carried on, gradually opening up and bringing remote districts under complete control; and while trade has benefited the native has been brought more under the influence of civilization.

WESTERN PROVINCE.

208. The Roads Department was actively employed chiefly upon the construction of roads to serve the purpose of feeders to the railway along the extension from Ibadan to Oshogbo.

The principal works done were:—

- i. Road to connect the old parade ground, Ibadan, with the Residency road so as to accommodate the traffic from Railway Station to the Iwo and Ife Roads.
- ii. Ibadan-Oyo Road repaired where necessary.
- iii. New road from Iwo to the Station (part).
- iv. Ibadan-Iwo Road diverted to side of railway from Olodo Market for about 2 miles so as to avoid crossing the railway at several points.
- v. Cart track from Railway Station through town of Ibadan to connect with Residency.
Iwo and Ife Roads—in progress.
- vi. Maintenance and repairs of all roads.
- vii. New road from Oyo Road Station to Ibadan Residency and town completed.
- viii. New road from Lalupon Station to Lalupon.
- ix. Road from Oyo Gate to junction of Oyo Road Station and Residency Road, Ibadan.
- x. Aro-Meko Road in progress.
- xi. Road from Erunmu towards Ife.

EASTERN PROVINCE.

209. The following table shows the roads the Road Department was engaged in constructing during the year:—

Return of Roads under Construction in Eastern Province, year ending December 31st, 1906.

Name of Road.	Total Distance.	Distance under construction or constructed.	Description of Road.	By whom constructed.	Approximate cost to date.	Remarks.
1. Calabar to Nsion.	About 45 miles	14 miles completed	15-foot cart road, unmetalled.	Surveyed and set out by Roads Department; constructed by P. W. D.	2,327	This road will eventually run through to Okuni on Cross River, about 105 miles distance; at present no survey has been made of Odukpani, 14 miles out.
2. Calabar to Ikang.	About 21 miles	21 miles under construction.	10-foot earth road, unmetalled.	Surveyed by P. W. D. Work in charge of District Commissioner.	200	This road runs through low swampy country to Ikang Customs station; clearing has been completed.
3. Improvement of Oron-Eket road.	Not measured	Work proceeding locally.	10-foot earth road, unmetalled.	Work in charge of District Commissioner.	200	A survey of this road was made by P. W. D. and work has been carried out in various localities along route.
4. Odukpani to Uvet.	About 20 miles	Not commenced ..	To be a 15-foot graded cart road, at present unmetalled.	A flying survey has been made and line of road located.	140	The survey for this road will be carried out in 1907. The country is very broken and hilly, with large swamps in the valleys.
5. Improvement of path, Ikpa to Akia.	About 12 miles	12 miles under construction.	A 10-foot bridle path ..	Under charge of District Commissioner.	200	Bridle path from Ikpa Creek to Aka station being constructed by District Commissioner; requires setting out in many places.
6. Ikot to Ikot-Ekpene.	23 miles ..	5 miles completed	15-foot graded cart road, at present unmetalled.	Survey completed by Roads Department; construction by Roads Department.	3,600	The 6 miles completed have included very heavy work, the 15-foot earth road being set out over surveyed line; construction of 15-ft. road to continue in 1907.
7. Flood level embankment, Ita to Oko-pa.	1 mile 3 chains	1 mile under construction.	15-foot cart road, unmetalled.	Construction now under Roads Department.	500	This portion of road is along the river bank, and consists of a high earth bank 14 to 15 feet above the surface. Work can only be carried on in the dry season.
8. Aro-Chuku to Eket.	4 miles ..	4 miles completed	10-foot road, unmetalled.	Survey by Roads Department; construction by District Commissioner.	75	The deviations are now completed, and there is a good road from Aro-Chuku station to Eket water side.
9. Akko to Ikot.	Not measured	Work proceeding locally.	10-foot earth road, unmetalled.	Under charge of District Commissioner.	100	This has been in charge of District Commissioner. No information to hand as to what has been done.
10. Aro-Chuku to Bende.	36 miles ..	Work proceeding locally.	10-foot earth road, unmetalled.	Roads Department are setting out deviations; doing work.	200	8 miles from Aro-Chuku have been set out and regraded. Work is also proceeding in Bende District. Lack of staff has caused delay in this work.
11. Obinri Hall to Okuni.	Unmeasured ..	Work proceeding locally.	10-foot earth road, unmetalled.	Roads Department setting out; construction by District Commissioner.	50	From Obinri about 5 miles have been constructed by District Commissioner; from Okuni about 9 miles.
12. Okuni to interior.	Unmeasured ..	Work proceeding locally.	10-foot earth road, unmetalled.	Roads Department setting out; construction by District Commissioner.	20	A new road from Okuni to Ikoni is in progress, also a road from Cross River up to Ikoni new station.

CENTRAL PROVINCE.

214). The following table shows the roads under construction at the end of 1906:—

Name of Road.	Total Distance.	Distance under Construction or Constructed.	Description of Road.	By whom Constructed.	Ap- proxi- mate Cost to Date.	Remarks.
1. Warri to Sapele	33 miles	..	15-feet cart road, un- metalled.	P. W. D. to date, and District Commissioner.	£ 840	This road has been in hand some time. It is now included in the Warri to Benin new metalled road, construction of which began in December.
2. Sapele to Ologbo	11 miles	..	12-feet earth road, un- metalled.	P. W. D. to date, and District Commissioner.	500	This road has been in hand some time. It is now included in the Warri to Benin new metalled road, construction of which began in December.
3. Ologbo to Benin City.	19 miles	..	12-feet earth road, un- metalled.	P. W. D. to date, and District Commissioner.	700	This road has been in hand some time. It is now included in the Warri to Benin new metalled road, construction of which began in December.
4. Benin City to Aghor; bridges and embank- ments.	Not measured	Work proceeding locally.	12-feet earth road, un- metalled.	P. W. D. and District Commissioner.	100	This road has been waiting for a proper survey to be made before construction is really taken in hand.
5. Akossa Bridge.	—	—	—	Roads Department	500	Iron work ordered and now to hand: con- struction of bridge to proceed next year.
6. Onitsha to Oka road.	22 miles	..	15-feet earth road, un- metalled	Roads Department and District Commissioner.	1,500	The latter part of this road is through very hilly country; construction should be com- plete by March, 1907.
7. Asabato-Ilesa, altered to Asaba to Ok- pannu.	10 miles	..	15-feet graded earth road, to be metalled.	Roads Department	1,500	This road is to connect the lignite deposits with the Niger. The survey is still incomplete but being carried on.
8. Non-Ose Ferry and bridges.	—	—	—	Marine Department	300	—

211. In connection with the roads of this part of the country the Provincial Commissioner has reported as follows:—

“Native paths throughout all the District have been straightened, cleared, and the stumps of trees removed, so that practically all over the Province, except in the hilly country north of Ifon and Idah, a bicycle can be used. As I write this a policeman has just handed me a special mail, having left Warri at 5.30 p.m. on the 27th and arrived at Benin City at 8.30 a.m. on the 28th—a total distance of 62 miles, done mostly by moonlight, with two rivers to cross by boat.

“The paths—they can almost be called roads—in the Kwale District are very good indeed, and the same can be said for those in the Ishan District.

“A straight road connecting Kwale District with Sapele and Warri is now being cheerfully cut by the natives, who appreciate being able to get down to the trading centres, where they may either trade or obtain employment, rather than have to depend on a middleman’s canoe.

“The path between Siluko and Benin City has been much improved—a distance of 45 miles. A path has also been made from the former place to Lakaluko, at which place it is proposed in 1907 to erect a bridge across the river to Akossa.

“All newly constructed roads have been made under the superintendence of the Road Department—costing the Government large sums of money, the labour being paid at the rate of one shilling or ninepence *per diem*, a high wage indeed considering the quality of the labour.

“The natives have the task of keeping the existing roads in proper condition. They pay no taxes—and even for this work they are invariably rewarded by presents made to the Chiefs and towns in question, if the work is properly done.”

XVI.—RAILWAY.

212. The Iddo Wharf Extension, opposite the island of Lagos and the sea terminus of the Railway, was opened to the public on the 20th of March, 1906. The work at that date was practically completed. During the year 9,873 tons of railway stores, chiefly construction material, were landed at the wharf. For the 10 months during which the wharf was used for public traffic 9,051 tons of merchandise were received and 20,355 tons despatched. To cover interest on the capital outlay and the cost of maintenance a terminal charge of 2s. 6d. a ton is levied at Iddo.

213. The extension of the Railway to Oshogbo (186-mile point) was in course of construction during the year; and satisfactory progress was made. The section Ibadan to Iwo

(30 miles) was sufficiently advanced to permit of its being opened to public traffic in October. The length, however, remained in the hands of the Construction Department for completion. Much ballasting was still required, and the permanent watering arrangements and station facilities remained to be provided.

214. Towards the end of the year sanction was accorded to the commencement of the extension to Ilorin, and to further investigation being undertaken to ascertain the feasibility of bridging the Niger at Jebba. A reconnaissance survey to Zungeru was also in progress. From survey information available, it would appear that the standard gradient of 1 in 80 and minimum curve of 10 chains radius adopted above Ibadan can be obtained to Zungeru.

215. The general results of working compare as under with the previous year:—

—	1905.	1906.	Increase.
	£	£	£
Gross earnings	72,649	84,663	12,014
Working expenses... ..	56,775	60,295	3,520
Net earnings	15,874	24,368	8,494

Of the increase of £12,014, a sum of £1,457 was due to additional receipts consequent on the opening of the Ibadan-Iwo section on the 23rd October, 1906. The receipts per open mile have increased from £578 to £645, or 12 per cent., while the expenses increased by about 1½ per cent. only. On the train mileage basis, results were equally satisfactory, receipts rising from 9s. 7d. to 11s. 7d. per train mile, or 21 per cent., while expenses increased by 10 per cent. only. The net earnings per train mile were 3s. 4d. as compared with 2s. 1d. in the previous year, an increase of 60 per cent.

216. The additional revenue derived from coaching traffic was £2,750, and that from goods £9,487. The rise in coaching revenue is satisfactory, as receipts from this source had been practically stationary in the previous two years. First-class passengers decreased slightly in number, but this was due to the introduction of concessions, consignors of merchandise contributing £5,000 per annum in railway freight being allowed free trader's tickets for their principal representatives. It is hoped that this system, by affording facilities for the establishment and extension of trading centres in the hinterland, will result in additional rail-borne traffic. There was a slight increase in second-class traffic, but the rise in coaching earnings is practically all due to third-class traffic, in which division the number of passengers increased by 13,704, and the fares by £2,209.

217. As regards goods traffic, public merchandise carried increased by 7,725 tons, representing £10,892 in freight. An inconsiderable portion of this was due to the newly-opened section; but merchants had not time to do more than make a commencement in opening business agencies at the new stations. The increase, therefore, might properly be attributed to the recovery in trade and the larger demand for export produce. The principal railway-borne commodities were:—

IDDO-IBADAN SECTION.

To Iddo.					From Iddo.				
Commodity.	1906.	1905.	In-crease.	De-crease.	Commodity.	1906.	1905.	In-crease.	De-crease.
Ashes	Tons. 181	Tons. 230	—	49	Agricultural Im-plements.	Tons. 6	Tons. 4	2	—
Beans	36	90	—	54	Arms and Ammu-nition.	55	58	—	3
Cotton, Raw ..	3,539	784	2,755	—	Beer	27	20	7	—
Cotton, Seed ..	2,807	1,288	1,519	—	Cement and Lime	574	253	321	—
Cocoa	143	82	61	—	Crockery	99	96	3	—
Corn.. ..	2,501	2,207	294	—	Cotton Goods ..	965	784	181	—
Empty Pots ..	5	18	—	13	Corrugated Iron	592	704	—	112
Palm Kernels ..	17,571	15,266	2,305	—	Enamelware ..	44	32	12	—
Palm Oil	1,321	867	454	—	Empty Bags ..	369	228	141	—
Rubber	148	8	140	—	Empty Casks and Cases.	301	184	117	—
Shea Butter ..	92	131	—	39	Flour imported ..	36	28	8	—
Yams	178	70	108	—	Hardware	65	59	6	—
Yam Flour ..	6	56	—	50	Kerosene Oil ..	113	108	5	—
Other Articles of Merchandise.	20	15	5	—	Machinery ..	82	42	40	—
					Matches	85	51	34	—
					Provisions ..	86	83	3	—
					Rat Traps.. ..	27	29	—	2
					Spirit, Gin ..	3,923	3,306	617	—
					Spirit, Rum ..	440	522	—	82
					Spirit, Other ..	30	42	—	12
					Sugar	34	24	10	—
					Salt	4,238	4,146	92	—
					Soap	155	86	69	—
					Timber imported	20	21	—	1
					Tobacco	124	120	4	—
					Wearing Apparel	16	12	4	—
					Other Articles of Merchandise.	10	11	—	1
Tons.. ..					Tons				

IWO-IBADAN SECTION.

To Iddo.		From Iddo.	
Commodity.	November and December 1906.	Commodities.	November and December 1906.
	Tons.		Tons
Palm Kernels ...	189	Corrugated Iron ...	3
		Empty bags ...	2
		Hardware ...	1
		Machinery ...	1
		Salt ...	80
		Spirit, Gin ...	2
		Spirit, Rum ...	1
		Sundries ...	3
Tons ...	189	Tons ...	93

218. The tonnage of cotton and cotton-seed was 6,146 tons, as compared with 2,072 tons in 1905, 1,296 in 1904, and 268 in 1903. It will be seen that the increase in the current year has been substantial. The free carriage of lint cotton was continued during the year, the railway receiving a book credit from general revenue at a rate based on an approximation to the actual cost of haulage.

219. The working expenses for the year amounted to £60,295, as compared with £56,775 in 1905, an increase of £3,520 against an increase of £12,014 in receipts, which may be considered satisfactory, as the average cost of working per 1,000 gross ton miles hauled was reduced from 623 pence to 565 pence. The principal factor of this economy has been the increase in the number of more powerful locomotives, four having been added to the stock in the early months of the year; their use has enabled heavier train loads to be hauled and train mileage to be correspondingly reduced. Something is also due to increased attention to the curtailment of unprofitable mileage, for with greater flow of traffic in one direction at certain seasons of the year, the light haulage in the opposite direction has to be carefully balanced. A general improvement has been the result, the average number of tons in a wagon having been increased from 4·62 to 5·11.

220. Closer attention has been given to train movement and other traffic operations, with satisfactory results. Attention has also been paid to the work of collecting statistics of population and trade in the northern districts towards Jebba and Zunguru, which will be of distinct value in connection with the extension of the Railway.

221. The year has been particularly free from accidents. There was only one case of injury to persons, that of an employé, who was inattentive to his duties. Of accidents to rolling stock there was only one of any importance, which was due to a heavy timber train being turned by mistake into a siding at Aro. Damage to the extent of £700 was thereby caused to rolling stock and permanent way.

222. The work done by the Railway as compared with the previous year, is analysed in the following statement:—

	Year ended 31st December, 1905.	Year ended 31st December, 1906.
Train miles	151,401	146,368
Vehicle miles	1,181,111	1,290,337
Total number of passengers	106,972	125,584
Total tonnage of goods	58,263	55,784
Unit mileage	4,047,466	5,090,717
Ton mileage of goods	4,182,222	4,713,088
*Gross ton mileage	21,872,262	25,583,407
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Average receipts per open mile	579 17 6·6	645 5 11·6
Average receipts per train mile	0 9 7·2	0 11 6·8
Average receipts per passenger	0 2 6·6	0 2 6·3
Average receipts per ton of public traffic...	1 2 10·1	1 3 3·8

* Freight and dead weight.

XVII.—MARINE DEPARTMENT.

223. The fleet during 1906 consisted of 39 steam and motor craft, of which five were new vessels. Other river craft numbered 137, eight of these being new. The running expenses of this fleet, excluding the S.Y. "Ivy" and the S.S. "Trojan," amounted to £31,000 14s. 2d., and the same vessels covered a total distance of 137,598 miles. In the regular services during the year 15,937 passengers travelled on 10 steam vessels, and 5,081 tons of cargo were carried by three steam and one motor craft.

224. Two launches, the "Evelyn" and the "Constance," were condemned and written off the books as unfit for further service. One pinnace, the "Parrot," sank and had to be regarded as a total loss. The S.Y. "Maud" was out of commission during the year, and was used as residential quarters for Government Officers.

225. The passenger and transport services carried on by the Department were efficiently maintained during the year. In one or two instances they met with so marked an increase of popularity that the systems, which had been prepared in view of small services only, became quite inadequate to deal with the whole of the traffic, and had to be re-organized in a much shorter period than had been anticipated. A special feature in this connection has been the introduction of shallow-draught motor-driven vessels of various types upon the Cross River. The general results of working them, experimental though it has been, tend to show that these vessels are destined to play an important part in the future navigation of the inland waterways of the country.

226. As regards sea-going transport, the S.Y. "Ivy" and the S.S. "Trojan," the latter newly purchased at a cost of £5,372, have been fully employed during the year. The "Trojan" especially conducted an important coastwise traffic, and was in ever-increasing demand in carrying cargo and for other miscellaneous duties, chief among which may be mentioned the assistance which has been rendered to the Government telegraph service.

227. The port of Lagos has been kept in a satisfactory and navigable condition. The possession of the steam lifeboat "Moseley" has enabled close observation to be made of all changes on the bar, the draught on which has remained at 9 feet 9 inches for steamers and 8 feet 9 inches for sailing vessels. The buoys and beacons have received constant supervision, and a large beacon has been erected inside Beecroft Point towards the lighthouse, where it furnishes an excellent leading mark. A new signal station has been erected in place of the old one, which was unfit for further use. The Lighthouse has performed its work satisfactorily and no complaints have been received from passing vessels. The establishment of the new dockyard at Apapa has been steadily carried on.

228. In the construction branch of the Lagos Dockyard one steam launch was built; one laid down the previous year was finished; and a third was commenced. A steel houseboat, with a pitch-pine deck-house was also constructed to provide quarters for the customs staff at Ajara, on the boundary. Besides these there were built one rowing cutter, a 25 ft. ferry boat, one Accra canoe, and two 15 ft. dinghies.

229. Although Akassa, under the new *régime*, became a subsidiary station to Calabar, it still continued to be the principal repairing depôt for the Central and Eastern Provinces. As time goes on, however, its importance will diminish before that of Forcados, and in consequence no expense has been incurred on improvements in the yard. The work here for the Marine and other Government Departments during the year proceeded at very high pressure. No work was undertaken for trading firms, with the exception of repairs to

one steam barge. Fortunately no other outside work was required, as it could not have been undertaken. One launch was completely rebuilt and extensive repairs were done on the large S.L. "Vampire." Considerable structural alterations and additions were made to the S.S. "Trojan" to fit her for the navigation of tropical waters. In June a small refrigerating plant was erected, and was subsequently run successfully from the existing power supply of the shops. This has undoubtedly assisted to maintain in good health the European personnel of the dockyard. Great improvements were effected in the southern portion of the station, swamps being filled up and land reclaimed whenever labour was available. The technical training of skilled artificers in the school established at this station went on with satisfactory results. The average attendance of apprentices showed an increase, in consequence of the utmost legitimate pressure and inducement being brought to bear to secure the attendance of every individual, their former reluctance being thus in some measure overcome. The training of natives in seamanship also gave good results, and, for the first time since the classes for this purpose were instituted, the supply of the requisite ratings was found equal to the demand.

230. At Calabar work has been carried on throughout the year at considerable disadvantage, owing to the erection of the new shops and offices outside the site of the old ones. The new buildings were practically completed at the end of the year, and the new power engine, machinery, and general internal equipment have been successfully running for some time. Additional store-room accommodation has been provided; and this and the new shops together constitute a thoroughly efficient and up-to-date establishment. No stoppage of work was entailed by the building operations, and amongst the principal works executed during the year were the rebuilding of a steam barge, and the erection of three motor craft which were received from England in sections. Besides this, all the usual necessary repairs were executed on existing craft, resulting in their being maintained in good working order.

231. Seven inland waterways were dealt with by clearing parties, and were either newly opened up, or greatly improved, for navigation. Eleven new or corrected charts were issued as a result of the surveying operations undertaken by the Department. The clearing and keeping open of sudd-obstructed routes was steadily pursued, and greatly facilitated the trade of the Western and Central Provinces.

232. In the Western Province the Gbekebo Creek was thoroughly cleared of snags, and the trees cut away in the narrow parts as far back as possible. The whole creek route from Benin River to Lagos was properly cleared so as to enable a small stern-wheeler to pass. A rise in the rivers between

Lagos and Benin River caused a series of formidable sudd blocks in the launch routes to Ayede and Siloko. An alternative route was opened in the lower Siloko Creek by which launches and rafts of timber could proceed to Benin River, avoiding the enormous sudd blocks; the other blocks in the Oluwa and Arogbo Creeks were removed at the same time, and the channels in the creeks were also widened throughout.

233. In the Eastern Province the Awoyon and Itenna Rivers were cleared, and the Calabar River was made passable for launches as far as Uwet. The Cross River was cleared from snags impeding steam navigation, and experiments were made (though they have not met with much success) in deepening the channel on the Itu flats in the dry season. The clearing of the Sombreiro River, opening up launch traffic to the new district headquarters at Ahoada, is important to the trade of that part of the country.

234. In the Central Province the work of clearing waterways both by explosive parties under a Marine Officer and by native working parties continued during the year. The River Niger, on which a mail and transport service is regularly run, was successfully cleared of the worst snags from Idah to Abekabo, at the junction of the Niger and the Edule Creek by the late Lieutenant Pierson, R.N.R. This officer and several natives were, unfortunately, killed by an explosion in July, 1906, a heavy snag having fallen across the canoe, which was full of explosives. During the year the Orashi River, connecting the Ndoni with Oguta Lake, was also cleared. Good work has also been done by natives in clearing the Ethiope River between Abraka and Obiariku, thus enabling large canoes easily to reach the headquarters of the new district of Kwale, which lies about midway between Abraka and Obiariku.

XVIII.—MINERAL SURVEY.

235. An examination has been made of the lead workings situated near the Aboyni River, in the Eastern Province, and some information obtained regarding the nature and extent of the deposits. From the results of analyses of typical samples of the ore made at the Imperial Institute, it appears that it is fairly rich in lead but contains only a little silver.

236. About two miles north of Afikpo on the road to Aba a sandstone most suitable for building purposes has been discovered, but at present it cannot be utilized owing to the cost of transport.

237. In the Western Province an examination has been made of the bituminous deposits at Ijebu Errimu Hill, Mafaoku, and the Errigu Valley. Apart from occasional out-

crops of nearly pure bitumen, these deposits consist essentially of sand, more or less impregnated with bitumen. From the results of the examinations of samples of these materials made at the Imperial Institute, it appears that the fairly pure bitumen is a product of considerable value, but it is improbable that the bituminous sands will be found to be worth exporting, although it may be possible to use them locally for road-making.

238. A survey of the Central Province was initiated during the year 1906-07, and a number of interesting results have been obtained.

XIX.—THE SOUTHERN NIGERIA REGIMENT.

239. The Southern Nigeria Regiment and the Lagos Battalion of the West African Frontier Force were amalgamated in May, 1906. The new regiment is organised as follows:—A Staff, a Regimental Depôt, one Battery of Artillery, and two Infantry Battalions of six Companies each. The Headquarters of the Staff, Regimental Depot, and the 2nd Battalion is Lagos, and that of the Artillery and the 1st Battalion, Calabar. In addition to these two places, garrisons for 15 outstations are found between the two battalions.

240. Garrisons for two new stations, Omoduru and Ikom, have been found, a company being stationed at the former and a section at the latter place.

241. The Native Officers of the 2nd Battalion (the old Lagos Battalion) have been replaced by British Non-Commissioned Officers, Maxim gun carriers enlisted, and a Regimental Depôt for the supply recruits to both battalions established.

242. The establishment consists of:—

European—

Staff.—1 Commandant, 1 Regimental Adjutant, 1 Intelligence Officer, 1 Civilian Pay and Quartermaster, 1 Regimental Sergt.-Major, and 1 Quartermaster-Sergt.

Regimental Depot.—1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 1 Instructor of Musketry, and 2 British Non-Commissioned Officers.

Artillery.—1 Captain, 4 Lieutenants, 1 Sergt.-Major, and 1 Sergeant.

Infantry.—2 Majors (Battalion Commanders), 12 Captains, 36 Lieutenants (including 2 Battalion Adjutants), 2 Bandmasters, 2 Armourer-Sergeants, and 24 British Non-Commissioned Officers.

Native ranks.—1,883.

243. The armament of the Artillery consists of 2.95-inch B.L. Mountain Guns, and the Infantry are armed with M.E.

carbines, but directions have been received for re-arming the Regiment with the magazine rifle. The 7-pounder M.L. guns on charge of the old Lagos Battalion have been condemned.

244. The Regiment took part in the following operations during the year:—

Bende-Onitsha hinterland patrol.—In November, 1905, the lamented murder of Dr. Stewart necessitated the despatch of a strong column to the Bende-Onitsha hinterland to deal with the natives concerned; strong opposition was met with, and the column under Major Trenchard was still in the field at the beginning of the year. The operations were brought to a successful conclusion by the 15th of April. Strength of Column: 24 Officers, 8 British Non-Commissioned Officers, 711 rank and file, two 2·95-inch guns, and 6 Maxims.

Kwale and Ishan Patrol.—Strength: 6 Officers, 2 British Non-commissioned Officers, 212 rank and file, one 2·95-inch gun, and 2 Maxims, under Captain Margesson, from 31st of October, 1905, to 27th January, 1906.

Ezza Ezhi Patrol.—Strength: 3 Officers, 1 British Non-Commissioned Officer, 220 rank and file, 2 Maxims, under the command of Captain E. de H. Smith, from 23rd April to 19th May, 1906.

Owa Operations.—On June the 9th news of the murder of Mr. O. S. Crewe-Read, Assistant District Commissioner, by the Owa people reached Asaba; and Captain Rudkin left the same afternoon with 3 Officers, 1 Medical Officer, 1 Political Officer, 194 rank and file, and a Maxim, and reached Umonede (40 miles) at 1 p.m. on the following day, where he received information that the enemy were in great force about five miles off. On June the 11th he met with most determined resistance the whole day and eventually reached the river three miles from Agbor having had Lieutenant Walmisley-Dresser and Mr. Chichester dangerously wounded; two rank and file killed, and twenty-five wounded. Reinforcements of three Officers, one 2·95-inch gun and 110 rank and file reached Captain Rudkin by June 19th, and he continued to have severe fighting S.S.E. of Agbor until July 2nd, when further reinforcements of three Officers, 130 rank and file arrived. With this force he attacked Owa, the scene of Mr. Crewe-Read's murder. This attack broke the back of the rising, and, though some outlying towns did not submit without further fighting, they had all come in by August 3rd, when the column broke up.

Troops were sent also to Benin City in October, but their presence there was found to be quite unnecessary.

245. The following casualties, amounting to just over 10 per cent. of the troops engaged, occurred during these operations: killed, rank and file, 12; wounded officers, Lieutenant H. C. Fox, Lieutenant M. C. Miers (slightly), Lieutenant Walmisley-Dresser (severely); rank and file, five dangerously, 58 severely, and 78 slightly.

246. The following deaths, discharges, desertions, and enlistments took place during the year:—

Deaths.			
Natural causes	...	...	19
Suicide	...	...	2
Total			21
Discharges	...	...	214
Desertions	...	...	29
Enlistments	...	...	325

XX.—INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT.

247. Most useful work has been carried on in this department during the year in compiling maps and sketches of new country and in reproducing and distributing maps and written information regarding the resources and topography of the Colony and Protectorate and the means of communication throughout the country.

248. During the year seventeen civilian officials passed through a course of instruction in route sketching, and four apprentice draftsmen received instruction in draftsmanship. Two books were published of an educational nature, "Notes on Bush Sketching" and "The Elements of Lithographic and Sun Printing," and a free issue of these books was made.

XXI.—CIVIL POLICE.

249. The whole Force is under the control of an Inspector-General of Police; and senior officers are placed in charge of the three Provinces, each of which forms a separate command.

250. The authorised establishment of the whole Force on the 31st of December was 1,084, and the actual strength was 1,052, which was distributed as follows:—

Western Province.	Eastern Province.	Central Province.	Total.
496	354	234	1,084
490	332	230	1,052

The deficiency was due to 21 River Police not being enrolled in the Eastern Province, as there was some difficulty in obtaining suitable craft for their work, and to the existence of 11 vacancies for ordinary constables.

251. The Force was distributed over 33 districts, 10 in the Western (including the railway area), 20 in the Eastern, and 13 in the Central Province.

In the Western Province constables are stationed in nearly all the important villages, but in the Eastern and Central Provinces the detachments are kept at the District Headquarters only.

252. In the Western Province, Meko and Jebu Ode were policed on the 16th July and the 18th of August respectively, the military detachment at Jebu Ode being relieved.

253. In the Western Province 29 cases of drunkenness were recorded, an increase of seven on the previous year. Twenty-one men were dismissed for misconduct, 22 reduced to lower grades, and 28 discharged. The total amount of fines inflicted was £71 14s. 9d., against £66 6s. 6d. in the previous year.

In the Eastern Province, the discipline has improved. Fifteen men were dismissed for misconduct, 23 were flogged, and two deserted.

254. In the Central Province discipline on the whole was satisfactory. The total number of punishments inflicted was 130. Six cases of drunkenness were recorded. Twenty-one men were dismissed for misconduct, three reduced, eleven flogged for various offences, and five committed for trial.

255. During the year 240 constables were enrolled, 68 in the Western Province, 117 in the Eastern, and 55 in the Central, the period of preliminary training, undergone at the Provincial Headquarters, lasting from three to six months.

256. Owing to the great variety of dialects spoken, especially in the Eastern and Central Provinces, many tribes have to be enlisted; in the former there are no less than 21 tribes, the majority being Ibos, Efiks, Yorubas, and Ibibios; in the latter the number is 15, chiefly Ibos, Yorubas, Binis, Jekris, and Sobos. In the Western Province nearly the whole Force is composed of Yorubas, their language being universally spoken.

257. The whole Force is armed with the Martini-Enfield carbine, a sufficient number of weapons having been taken over from the Southern Nigeria Regiment. The prescribed annual course consists of 28 rounds per man, 7 rounds each at 50, 100, 200, and 300 yards.

In the Western Province 425 were exercised and the average score attained was 51.2.

Nil returns were received from the Eastern and Central Provinces, the explanation being given that rifle ranges were

not always available, and that difficulty was experienced in relieving men from their district duties. A great many men were, however, exercised in target practice at short range wherever it was possible.

258. Drills were carried out as frequently as possible. At the respective Provincial Headquarters drills were carried out daily for all available men, and lectures on police duties were delivered at least twice a week.

259. The detective staff in the Western Province, consisting of one superintendent and 14 detectives, all plain clothes officers, is not included in the Civil Police Staff. The Detective Branch investigated 52 cases and arrested 82 persons, 59 of whom were convicted and 23 discharged; 31 cases were also reported in which no arrest was made. The total value of property stolen was estimated at £642 1s., of which £416 was actual cash. The amount recovered was £202 11s. 6d., £180 14s. of it being cash.

260. A Detective Branch was also started in the Eastern Province with satisfactory results.

XXII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

261. The Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria, comprising an area estimated at 77,000 square miles, has been formed by the amalgamation of the two Administrations of Lagos and Southern Nigeria, and Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G., Governor of Lagos and High Commissioner of Southern Nigeria, assumed the Governorship of the combined territories on 1st May, 1906, when the Letters Patent and Royal Instructions replacing those previously in operation were proclaimed with due ceremony in Lagos and other parts of the country and duly gazetted.

262. The Government is administered by a Governor assisted by a Lieutenant-Governor, who is also Colonial Secretary, and an Executive Council. There is a Legislative Council comprising both official and un-official members. The territory for purposes of administration has been divided into three Provinces: (1) the Western or Lagos Province, comprising the former Colony and Protectorate of Lagos with Headquarters at Lagos; (2) the Central or Niger Province, with headquarters at Warri; (3) the Eastern or Calabar Province with headquarters at Calabar. Each of these Provinces is administered by a Provincial Commissioner under the direction of the Governor.

263. The Headquarters of the whole administration has been established at Lagos, the capital of the newly constituted

Colony and Protectorate, and the heads of the various departments have offices in Lagos.

In the Provinces each Provincial Commissioner is assisted by a Provincial Secretary and a staff of District Commissioners and Assistant District Commissioners, as well as by a representative of each Department, who is responsible to the Provincial Commissioner for properly conducting the work of each Department in the Province.

264. The anti-malarial work which has been going on steadily throughout the country during the last six years continued to be vigorously prosecuted. Quinine is issued free of charge to all Government officials, and the native population has been encouraged to take the drug and to use it in the treatment of infants and children. The reclamation of swamp land in the neighbourhood of the various stations, especially at Lagos, Forcados, Sapele, Warri, and Bonny, and the clearing of bush and rubbish from around the settlements are being steadily carried out; and every effort is being made to destroy mosquito breeding-places and to maintain the stations in a sanitary condition. Special provision is now made in the Estimates for the supply of mosquito proofing to officers' quarters.

265. The Lagos Agriculture Show has already been mentioned in connection with its probable good effect on the agriculture of the country. The show was held in November last and under the energetic management of the Commercial Intelligence Officer it proved an unqualified success. Visitors assembled from Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, and the neighbouring Provinces. The principal Western Province chiefs who visited the show were the Aremo of Oyo, representing the Alafin of Oyo (who like many other African rulers is supposed never to leave the royal compound), the Alake of Abeokuta, Eleko of Lagos, the Otun Bale of Ibadan, and numerous other chiefs from Ilorin, Ekiti, Ijebu-Ode, Epe, Ikorodu, and Badagry. The Central Province was represented by chiefs from Warri, Sapele, Benin City, Ifon, Agbede, Idah, Asaba, Onitsha, and Aboh, the Eastern Province being also represented by the Calabar chiefs and chiefs from Oron, Eket, Opobo, Bonny. These chiefs with their followers together with numerous people from all parts of the country formed one of the largest gatherings witnessed in Lagos. There were over 2,500 exhibits arranged in sections, consisting of specimens of forest, agricultural, and industrial produce, and there was also a section for animals and birds. It is confidently expected that this Show will assist materially in the development of the country.

PUBLIC SERVICE.

266. The year under review forms part of the third year of the administration of Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G., and his second tour of service in residence on the West Coast of Africa.

267. Mr. J. J. Thorburn, C.M.G., administered the Government from 1st January to 11th February, when Sir Walter Egerton returned from leave, and Mr. W. F. W. Fosbery, C.M.G., carried on the administration from 10th June to 5th August while Sir Walter Egerton was absent in England to consult with the Secretary of State on railway and other important administrative matters.

268. A Royal Commission was issued to Mr. J. J. Thorburn appointing him to the office of Lieutenant-Governor of Southern Nigeria.

269. For purposes of administration, as has been mentioned above, the Colony and Protectorate have been divided into three Provinces. Mr. W. F. W. Fosbery, C.M.G., Mr. F. S. James, C.M.G., and Mr. H. Bedwell have been appointed Provincial Commissioners to administer these Provinces under the Governor's direction.

270. The Treasury and Customs have been placed under the control of one officer, who is styled the Financial Commissioner; Mr. C. E. Dale, who formerly held the Office of Treasurer under the Protectorate Government at Calabar, having been appointed to fill this office.

271. During the year Chief Justice H. G. Kelly of the Supreme Court of the Eastern and Central Provinces and Chief Justice William Nicoll of the Supreme Court of Lagos received the honour of knighthood as Knights Bachelor.

272. Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. Moorhouse and Captain G. T. Mair were created Companions of the Distinguished Service Order. The Distinguished Conduct Medal was awarded to Sergeant-Major A. E. Klee.

POLITICAL.

Western Province.

273. Throughout the year the country has been peaceful and there is small likelihood of any important disturbance in the future. In Egbaland there has been some trouble between the Alake of Abeokuta and his people which might have assumed grave proportions, but this was averted.

274. A District Commissioner has been stationed at Oyo, who deals with administrative matters in connection with Oyo and Saki, which were formerly dealt with by the District Commissioner at Ibadan. This part of the country is thickly populated and commercially rich, and the presence of a government representative at Oyo, the capital of Yorubaland, will tend to increase the influence of Government and assist in exploiting the country, and the Alafin of Oyo will have the benefit of this officer's advice and support.

275. An Assistant District Commissioner has been stationed at Idiroko to assist the Officer at Meko in establishing more

complete control on the frontier with a view to stopping contraband trade.

Eastern Province.

276. The country on the whole was peaceful and quiet during the year. The Bende-Owerri Hinterland Expedition which had to be undertaken in connection with the murder of the late Doctor Stewart was completed early in the year. A patrol operated in the Abakaliki District during April and May. This part of the country is now being brought under control. The Enen patrol operated in the Aka District during October and November.

277. In April of the year under review a military station was established at Omoduru in the country forming the northern portion of the Owerri District, and the pacification of the country was commenced. A District Commissioner proceeded at the end of the year to Omoduru, but the establishment of civil authority was not actually effected within the year.

278. In the Abakaliki District the work of pacific penetration has not made much progress. The various tribes are wild, and influenced against European Government by the middlemen, whose profits dwindle as the country is opened up and the people gain sufficient confidence to trade with Europeans.

Central Province.

279. The attitude of the natives has been friendly, with the exception of the unfortunate rising at Owa, in the Agbor District. The Owa people, a portion of the Ika people, who are again an offshoot of the Ibos, have always been famed for their lawlessness and truculent conduct, and have an intense dislike to any control or Government whatever shape it may take. The country was quieted by the end of August.

280. The Ishan country was visited by a patrol in June; and in September, on account of the defiant attitude of the people of Awgulu in the Oka District in seizing people and blocking trade roads, troops visited that district and Awgulu was occupied. A Native Court has since been established at this place.

281. The Benin scare—for inquiry proved that a rising was never contemplated—has already been alluded to. The Provincial Commissioner in dealing with the matter reports:—

“One thing of which I am absolutely certain, is that the Binis, as a whole, have no wish by ending the European influence to fall back once more under the barbarous rule of the Kings of Benin. This is amply proved, I always consider, when it is a common sight to see the mothers, as a white man passes, bringing their babies from the houses to look upon the face of the white man, the type of the race which has made

life and property—especially the former—safe in what was a land of terror; contrast this with the woman of any Ibo town newly visited, who hide their children behind them in case the sight of the white man may prove baleful to their young."

282. The progress of civilisation in the Province has been most marked, and the natives themselves show on all sides their appreciation of what the Government has done for them during the past few years in establishing the law and order which have opened up their roads to trade and rendered their lives and property safe.

GENERAL CONDITION OF THE COLONY AND PROTECTORATE.

283. The year under report has been one of rapid progress and expansion in every direction. The opening up of the country has been continued and the remote districts have been brought into closer touch with the civilising European influence. Several new districts have been brought under more complete administrative control. The traders have pushed their way further up country, and the Cross River for the first time is being properly developed. The means of communication have been considerably improved, making the work of the administration more effective and giving greater security to life and property.

284. The progress made in education has been most satisfactory, but the parents have yet to be taught that their children should not be kept from school during the farming season; and the want of proper teachers renders progress less rapid than it might be. Trade showed unusual expansion; and the prices paid for West African produce in the local markets were higher than they have ever been, while European prices reached a mark which had never been attained since the early nineties. There have been large increases in revenue and corresponding increases in expenditure. Railway, Marine, and Post Office in the annual returns bear eloquent testimony to the progress of the country. Lagos, the capital of the newly formed Colony and Protectorate, is rapidly changing for the better in every direction; and the improvement is not confined to Lagos, but the spirit of energy has been inspired into all sections of the community, and throughout the Colony and Protectorate the same marked improvement is displayed. Lagos harbour is being improved; the streets are being gradually and properly laid out and metalled; the public buildings are being repaired, and new buildings are being erected. Sanitary arrangements have received special attention, and it is pleasant to see that the desire for improvement in this direction is by no means confined to one section of the community. Government, merchants, and natives all benefit by the work which is being done, and Lagos promises to be in a very few years a well laid-out healthy tropical town. Cotton and rubber are now

being scientifically cultivated, and perhaps the most satisfactory feature of the year is the rapid progress in agricultural pursuits. At present the country is practically dependent for its wealth on forest produce, but the establishment of such industries as cocoa, rubber, and cotton will assure the future welfare of the people. There is clear evidence to show that marked improvement has taken place in the social, political, and industrial condition of the country and people, during the year under review, and that a very appreciable advance has been made in every direction.

F. S. JAMES,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Secretariat, Lagos,
21st October, 1907.

APPENDIX.

A.

Return showing the amount of Shipping in the Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria during the year 1906.

Flag.	Entered.		Cleared.		Remarks.
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	
Steam—					
British 	298	504,865	261	443,993	
Foreign 	177	209,932	181	213,762	
Sailing—					
British 	3	1,341	3	1,272	
Foreign 	1	6	—	—	

B.

Diagram I.—Chart of Revenue and Expenditure for eleven years.

Diagram II.—Import Trade, United Kingdom and other Countries for ten years.

Diagram III.—Export Trade, United Kingdom and other Countries for ten years.

Appendix B.

Diagram I.

COLONY AND PROTECTORATE
OF
SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

CHART SHEWING ACTUAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE ELEVEN YEARS, 1896 TO 1906.

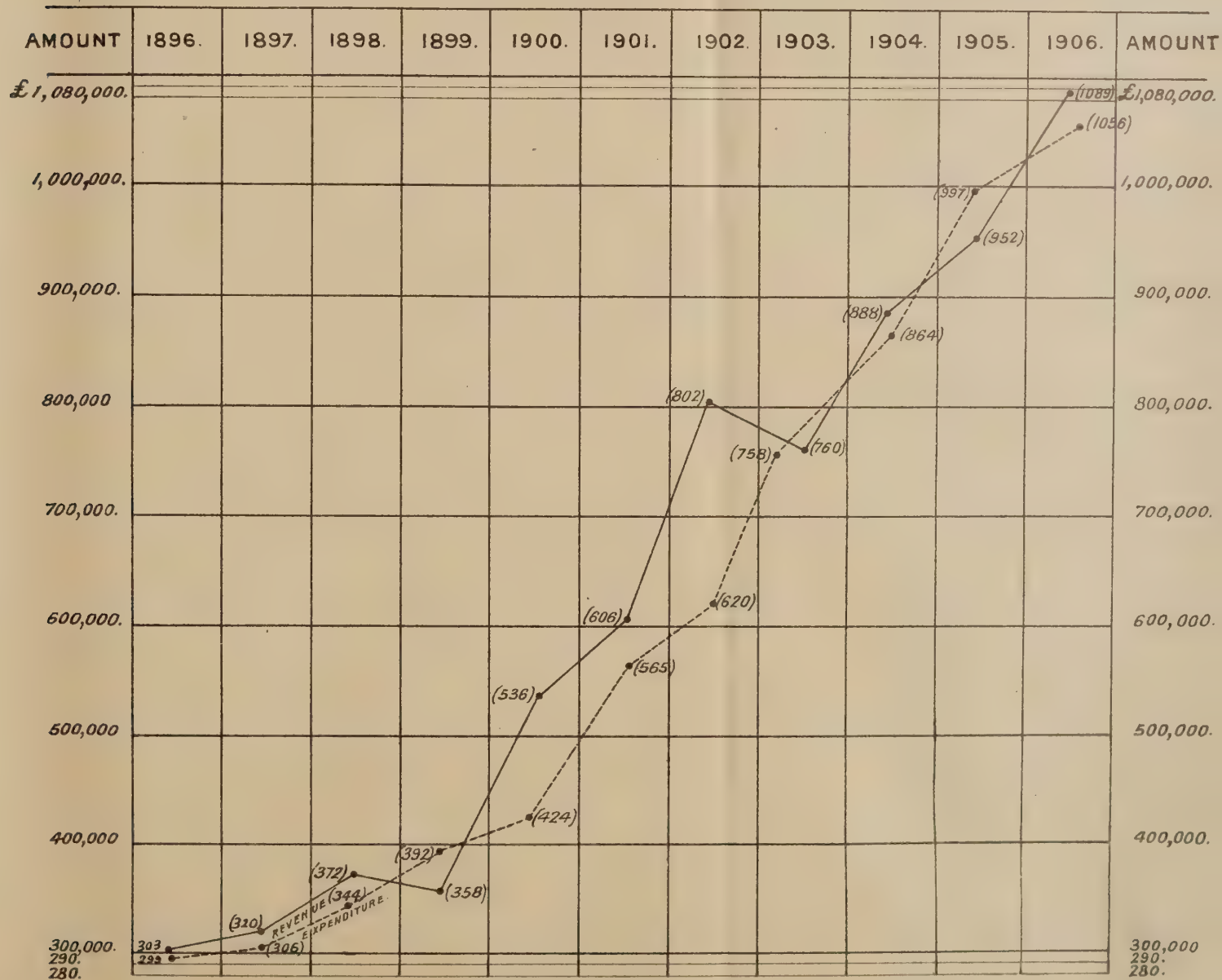
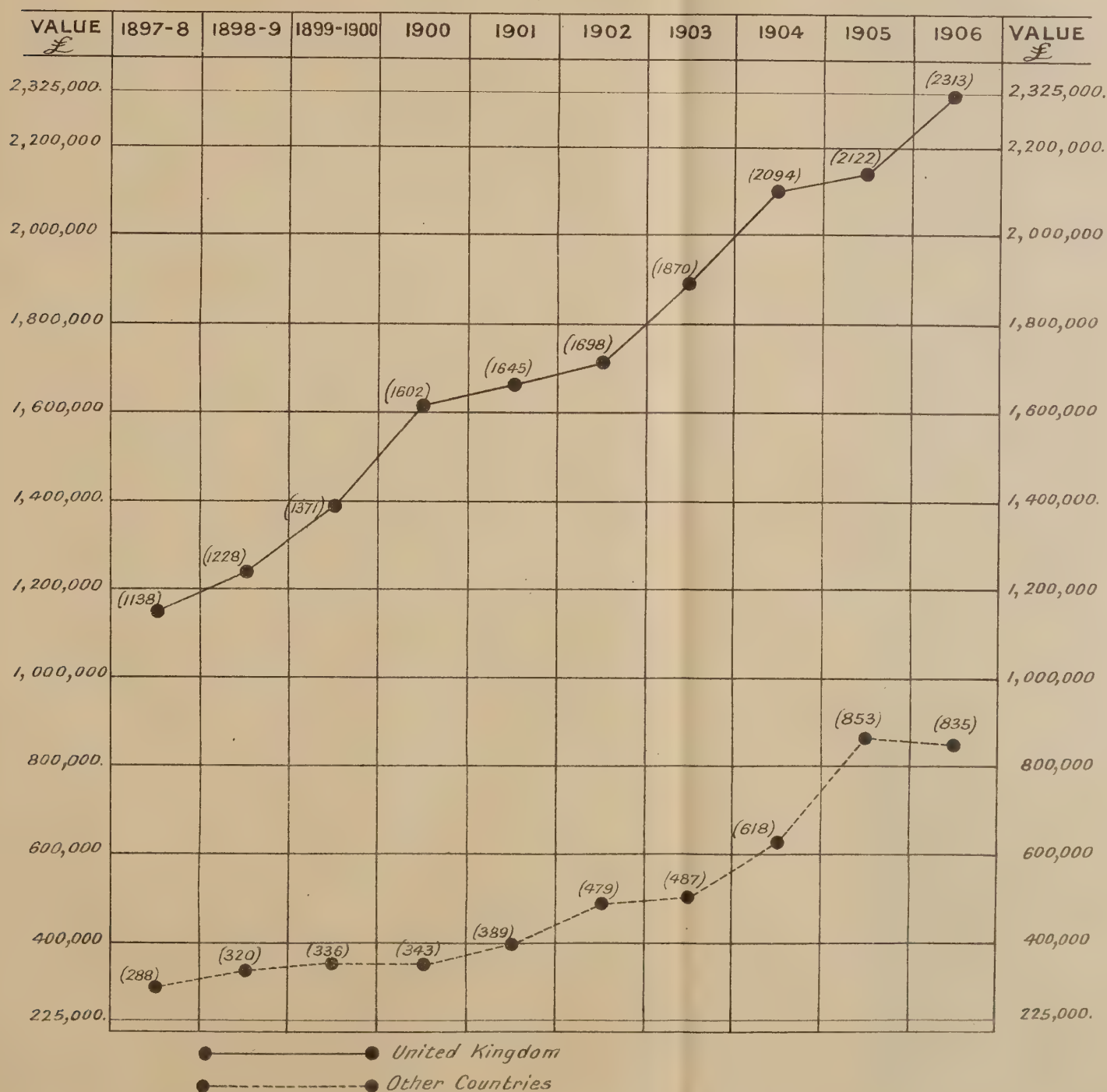
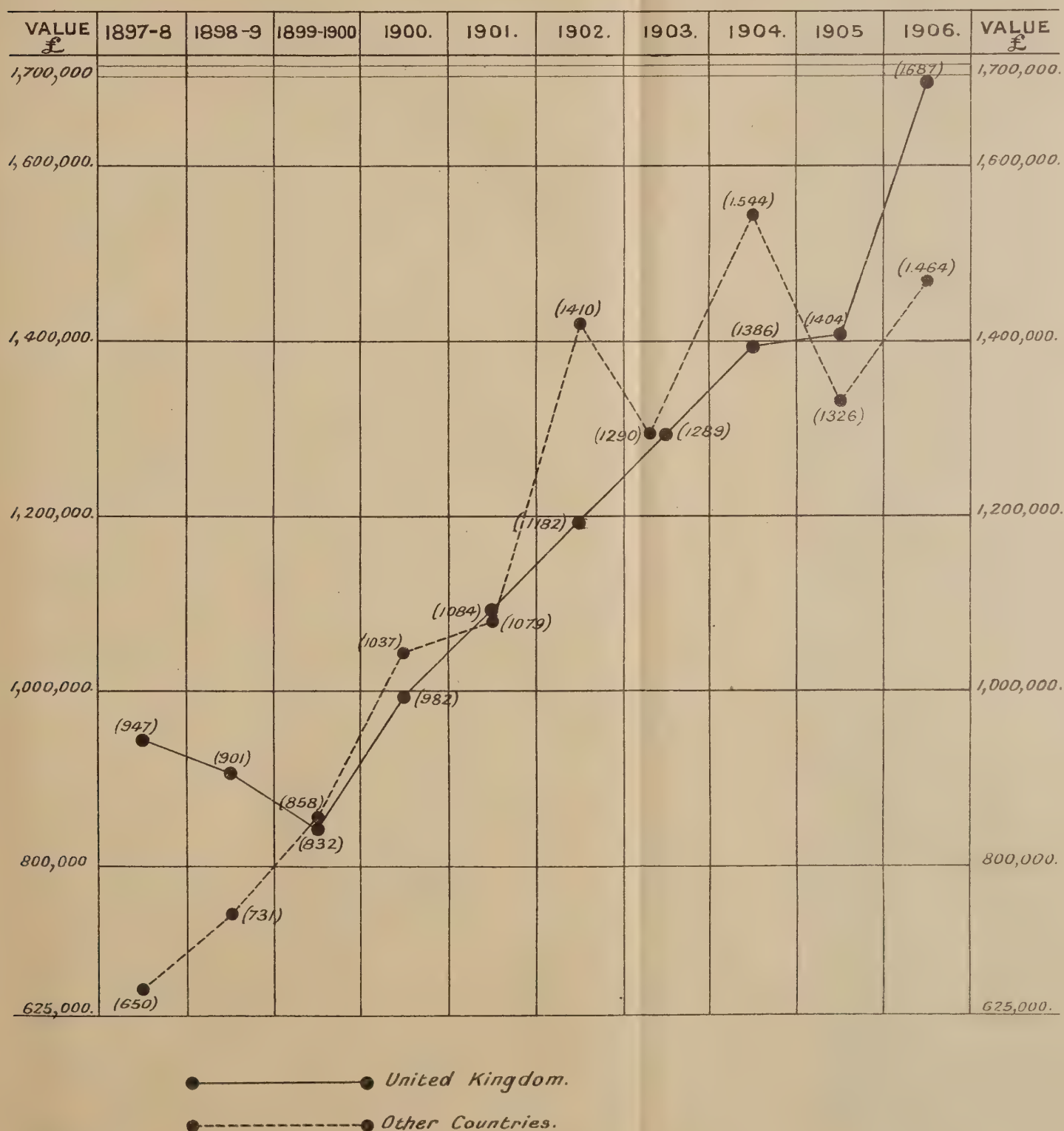


CHART SHEWING THE VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM AND OTHER COUNTRIES INTO THE COLONY OF LAGOS AND THE PROTECTORATE OF SOUTHERN NIGERIA (COMBINED) FROM 1897 TO 1906.



All Figures to the nearest Thousand.

CHART SHEWING THE VALUE OF EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND
OTHER COUNTRIES FROM THE COLONY OF LAGOS AND THE PROTECTORATE
OF SOUTHERN NIGERIA (COMBINED) FROM 1897 TO 1906.



1683-2.08.

All Figures to the nearest Thousand

Weller & Graham, Ltd. Litho. London.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
521	Hong Kong	1906
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"
524	Jamaica	1905-1906
525	Uganda	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906-1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
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535	Malta	1906-1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906-1907
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539	Leeward Islands	"
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541	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906-1907
543	Bahamas	"
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546	Grenada	"
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
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550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia	1906-1907

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38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate	Report on Kenia Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1905-6.
43	Caicos Islands	Fibre.
44	East Africa Protectorate	Survey Department.
45	Do.	Geology.

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1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 583.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 554.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1908.



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No. 583.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 554.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Lagos, Southern Nigeria,
12th September, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Annual Blue Book Report on this administration for the calendar year 1907, which was one of very great prosperity as the following figures show:—

	1906.	1907.
	£	£
Revenue	1,088,717	1,459,554
Expenditure	1,056,290	1,217,337
Trade (exclusive of specie)	5,797,000	7,702,000

2. The report, compiled by Mr. F. S. James, Acting Colonial Secretary, is evidence of the excellent work done by the Civil Service of this Colony and Protectorate, and of the rapid development of the resources of this rich country.

3. The expansion of Southern Nigeria is well shown by the chart appended to the report.

4. The year is notable for the very great extension in trade and revenue, for the opening of the railway to Oshogbo, 186 miles from the coast terminus, for the inauguration of a volunteer force, for the commencement, after over 20 years of discussion, of dredging operations on the Lagos bar, and of the harbour works designed to deepen the entrance to the harbour, for the improvement in the health of the European population, and for the increase in the production of cotton as shown by the following figures:—

	1906.	1907.
	£	£
Value of cotton and cotton seed exported	51,906	107,891

I have, &c.,

W. EGERTON,
Governor.

The Right Honourable,
The Earl of Crewe, P.C., K.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

ANNUAL BLUE BOOK REPORT FOR 1907.

FINANCIAL.

The total revenue collected amounted to £1,459,554, exceeding the amount estimated by £306,875, and the revenue receipts of the previous year by £370,837. The excess over the estimate is partly accounted for (1) by the increased duty on spirits—raised from 3s. 6d. to 4s. a gallon on 22nd December, 1906, and (2) by the high prices paid for West African produce in the European markets, resulting in increased importations of the staple goods for which such produce is exchanged and a corresponding increase in Customs duties and Railway receipts, the principal items of revenue affected. The foregoing reasons account for the excess over the previous year's receipts; but much is due to the increased confidence of the natives in the administration and the progress made in the development of the country by the improvement of means of communication and the establishment of peace and good order.

2. The following statement shows the receipts under each head of revenue compared with the preceding year:—

Head of Revenue.	1907.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs duties	1,178,193	885,858	292,335	—
Harbour and lighthouse dues ...	1,812	1,431	381	—
Licences, &c.	17,497	19,028	—	1,531
Fees of Court, &c.	79,380	47,128	32,252	—
Postal Revenue	8,196	11,840	—	3,644
Rent of Government properties	1,932	563	1,369	—
Interest	15,129	25,637	—	10,508
Miscellaneous	8,329	10,730	—	2,401
Railway and tramway	148,234	84,842	63,392	—
Land sales	852	1,660	—	808
Total	1,459,554	1,088,717	389,729	18,892

3. The receipts from Customs duties amounted to 80·7 per cent. of the revenue received from all sources. The receipts from specific duties totalled £994,130, compared with £754,888 in 1906, while *ad valorem* duties amounted to £184,063, compared with £130,970 in 1906. The following are the percentages of the duty derived from the principal articles on which duties of customs are levied:—

	Per cent.	£
Spirits	68	807,000
Cotton Goods	9	107,000
Tobacco Unmanufactured	8	93,000

4. The actual expenditure for the year met from revenue amounted to £1,217,337, as against £1,056,290 in the preceding year, while further expenditure chargeable to loans (railway construction, &c.) amounted to £296,871, compared with £262,343 in 1906. With regard to the expenditure met from revenue, the sum of £1,162,733 was supplemented by £85,046, and in addition the following expenditure originally intended to be met from loans was actually met from revenue:—

	£
Harbour Works	2,623
Warri-Benin Road	27,578
Dredger for Lagos Bar	49,179
	£79,380

The actual excess of the estimated over the actual expenditure amounted therefore to £109,822. As regards loan expenditure, which totalled £296,871, the sum of £280,766 was expended on railway extension, and £16,072 on harbour works at Lagos, preparations being made for the construction of the eastern mole in connexion with the deepening of the entrance into Lagos harbour. The total sum expended on railway construction to 31st December, 1907, amounted to £1,958,522.

5. The following statement shows the amount spent from each head of expenditure during the year 1907, compared with the preceding year:—

Head of Expenditure.	1907.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease
	£	£	£	£
Charge on account of Public Debt	70,345	70,083	262	—
Pensions and gratuities	12,224	12,052	172	—
Governor's office	7,210	9,423	—	2,213
Colonial Secretariat	9,562	12,076	—	2,514
Political and administrative	68,814	66,568	2,246	—
Judicial	9,745	9,195	550	—
Legal and registration	2,677	2,610	67	—
Treasury and Customs	34,293 12,280	33,087	1,206	—
Postal and telegraphs	15,440	16,385	11,335	—
Audit	5,715	5,351	364	—
Printing	7,062	6,841	221	—
W.A.F.F., S.N.R.	100,298	84,169	16,129	—
Volunteer Force	1,084	—	1,084	—
Marine	114,873	92,195	22,678	—
Civil Police	35,132	31,411	3,721	—
Prisons	23,503	22,180	1,323	—
Forestry and agriculture	20,723	17,401	3,322	—
Carried forward	550,980	491,027	64,680	4,727

Head of Expenditure.	1907.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward ...	550,980	491,027	64,680	4,727
Medical ...	48,250	45,609	2,641	—
Sanitary ...	3,516	2,613	903	—
Native affairs ...	20,212	8,964	11,248	—
Education ...	16,638	12,521	4,117	—
Land and Survey Department {	1,229	9,236	581	—
	8,588			
Laboratory ...	639	636	3	—
Rent ...	1,566	1,013	553	—
Charitable ...	412	325	87	—
Transport ...	54,581	35,167	19,414	—
Contribution to Northern Nigeria	71,250	75,000	—	3,750
Miscellaneous services ...	21,179	50,596	—	29,417
Public Works Department ...	34,176	36,349	—	2,173
Roads construction ...	3,640	1,903	1,737	—
Works and buildings :				
Annually recurrent ...	36,461	51,216	—	14,755
Roads and bridges :				
Annually recurrent ...	5,732	1,398	4,334	—
Government motor transport :				
Ibadan and Oyo ...	4,265	—	4,265	—
Railway ...	74,997	59,181	15,816	—
Tramway ...	1,633	1,539	94	—
Carter & Denton Bridges ...	1,256	689	567	—
Works and buildings :				
Extraordinary ...	102,055	123,102	—	21,047
Roads and bridges :				
Extraordinary ...	65,744	15,899	49,845	—
Telegraphs :				
Extraordinary ...	17,715	11,204	6,511	—
Marine do. ...	61,019	21,105	39,914	—
Works chargeable to Surplus Funds.	9,604	—	9,604	—
Total ...	1,217,337	1,056,292	236,914	75,869

6. The following statement shows the total revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1903 ...	760,230	757,953
1904 ...	888,136	863,917
1905 ...	951,748	998,564
1906 ...	1,088,717	1,056,290
1907 ...	1,459,554	1,217,337

7. There have been no important changes in taxation during the year, though the increase of 6d. a gallon on spirits practically affected the revenue of the year, as, although levied in 1906, it only took effect in that year from 22nd December.

8. The following is the statement of assets and liabilities on 31st December, 1907:—

Liabilities.	Amount.	Assets.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Deposits due by the Colony and Protectorate—		Cash Balances	135,023 8 0
Savings Bank .. 30,813 5 2		Advances due to the Colony and Protectorate—	
Sundries .. 133,871 13 8		Lagos Railway .. 104,788 10 9	
	164,684 18 8	Baro-Kano Rail- 24,000 0 0	
		way.	
Drafts on Crown Agents unpaid.	846 13 4	Sundries .. 90,625 1 8	219,413 12 5
Remittances from Crown Agents.	3,000 0 0	Remittances in transit.. ..	64,434 2 5
Due on Sinking and Depreciation Funds	23,021 6 7	Investments—	
Excess of Assets over Liabilities.	632,338 2 9	Savings Bank .. 24,350 0 0	
		Sundries .. 357,648 16 11	
		Sinking and 23,021 6 7	
		Appropriated Funds.	405,020 3 6
Total ..	£ 823,891 6 4	Total	£ 823,891 6 4

NOTE.—(a) Liability—Lagos Railway (1905) loan issued £2,000,000, realised £1,889,217 18s. 10d. net. Lagos Railway Construction Account £1,958,522 6s. 2d. (overpaid on this account from surplus balances pending issue of new loan £69,304 6s. 4d.).

NOTE.—(b) Extraordinary expenditure on services other than railway from surplus balances pending issue of new loan £16,071 14s. 7d.

The excess of assets over liabilities, amounting to £632,338, is £156,841 more than at the close of the preceding year, when it amounted to £475,497. The improvement in the financial position over that of 1906 represents the excess revenue over expenditure for the year 1907. A further sum of £85,376 was expended on railway extension and harbour works in anticipation of the raising of the new loan since floated: this sum is not shown as an asset, although it will become an asset when a similar amount is transferred to surplus balances from the loan since raised.

9. The total indebtedness of the Colony and Protectorate on 31st December, 1907, amounted to £2,000,000 raised by loan in 1905, which realized £1,889,552 net, and has been expended on railway construction. Provision has been made for the repayment of this loan from revenue by a sinking fund commencing in September, 1908.

10. The banking business of the Government is transacted by the Bank of British West Africa, under an agreement entered into in 1894. This agreement, however, applies only to Lagos, and equal facilities are still lacking in the Central and Eastern Provinces. The competition introduced into the banking business in Lagos by the establishment of a branch of the Bank of Nigeria has proved beneficial to Government and the mercantile community.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

11. Imports and exports increased abnormally during the year under review, the gross total value of the trade amounting to £9,824,391, compared with £7,185,269 in 1906—a difference of £2,639,122—or, if specie is excluded, amounting to £8,883,453, compared with £6,683,292—a difference of £2,200,161.

12. The principal reason for this large increase can be found in an exceptionally good “oil” season and in the high prices for West African produce prevailing during the year in the European markets, but at the same time due weight must be attached to the following factors:—

(a.) Improved means of communication by the extension of the railway, the construction of roads, the clearing of rivers, and the establishment of public transport services, resulting in the markets being made more accessible and in a consequent increase in the produce output;

(b.) Material development of agriculture throughout the country, more especially in the Lagos Province; and

(c.) The more settled state of the country, due to increasing confidence in the administration.

IMPORTS.

13. The value of the Commercial and Government imports for the last two years, excluding specie and import duties, amounted to: 1907, £3,839,339—1906, £2,847,317.

14. The following figures show the percentages supplied by the United Kingdom, Germany, Holland, and other countries:—

	1907.		1906.
	Per cent		Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	75·3	...	75·6
Germany ...	12·4	...	10·7
Holland ...	8·4	...	9·5
Other Countries ...	3·9	...	4·2

15. Increases have taken place in all the principal imports except silk, which apparently drops from £60,000 to £48,000. The explanation has been suggested that some cotton goods in 1906 were wrongly classified as silk.

16. There has been an increase of £317,000 in cotton goods, the total imports being valued at £1,078,000 as compared with £760,000 during the year 1906. It is noteworthy, as an indication of the development of trade in the north, that cotton goods to the value of £132,000 passed up the Niger to Northern Nigeria during the year, whereas in 1902 the whole of the imports into that country are reported to have amounted to only £59,000.

17. The importation of spirits* aggregates about three quarters of a million gallons more than in the previous year. The percentage of the total importations during the last two years is:—

					Per cent.
1907	...	...	...	...	10
1906	...	...	...	...	10·6

It is noteworthy that in the Western Province with exports totalling to £334,000 more than in 1906, spirit imports increased by only 5 per cent. The value of the importations of spirits for each Province is given below:—

	1907.	1906.
Western Province ...	98,844	82,859
Central „ ...	96,072	61,983
Eastern „ ...	190,588	156,439

It is interesting to note the relative value of the imports of cotton goods and spirits into Nigeria during the year under review, comparing the cost of the goods in Europe with the cost when delivered from the Custom House for consumption in Southern Nigeria:—

	Declared value on importation.	Value with duty added.
	£	£
Cotton goods ...	1,078,224	1,185,627
Spirits ...	385,505	1,192,447

EXPORTS.

18. The value of the exports, excluding specie, compared with the previous year is as follows:—

1907.	1906.
£3,863,332	£2,950,391

and the following figures show the percentages taken by the various countries supplied with produce from Nigeria:—

	1907.	1906.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	52·7	56·9
Germany ...	41·9	39·2
France ...	2·2	1·2
Other countries ...	3·2	2·7

19. The percentage supplied to the United Kingdom has been affected by the increased export of palm kernels, as practically the whole of the extra production (20,000 tons) was taken by Germany, the consignments of kernels to the United Kingdom being 1,100 tons less than in 1906. The increased percentage of trade to France has been caused by the larger shipments of palm oil to that country (£74,000 in 1907, compared with £32,000 in 1906).

* A comparative statement of the imports of spirits during the past five years is given in the Appendix.

20. The following figures show the value and quantity of palm oil and palm kernels exported, compared with the preceding year:—

Palm oil, 1907, 18,332,531 gallons, £1,313,960 (including £48,000, Northern Nigeria).

„ 1906, 16,032,571 gallons, £1,001,648.

Palm kernels 1907, 133,630 tons, £1,658,292 (including £22,609, Northern Nigeria).

„ 1906, 113,347 tons, £1,193,939.

The exports are the best on record both as regards value and bulk, for, although, as far as palm kernels are concerned, the official returns for 1904 show that 139,000 tons were exported in that year, the figures for the first eight months included the kernels exported from the French Colony of Dahomey passing through the inland waters of Lagos. This transit trade is not now included in the trade of Southern Nigeria.

21. The following comparative statement shows the export of palm oil from each Province, compared with kernels:—

—				Oil.	Kernels.	Average gallons oil to one ton kernels.
				Gallons.	Tons.	
Western	...	...	...	3,848,739	57,505	67
Central	...	...	...	3,594,535	29,331	122½
Eastern	...	...	...	10,889,457	46,794	232
Total	...	...	...	18,332,531	133,630	137

From the foregoing statement it will be seen that there is opportunity for great development of the trade in kernels in the Eastern and Central Provinces, and, if the exports were only 75 per cent. of what the Western Province yields, 80,000 tons more would go out of the country yearly. In the Central Province improved transport arrangements will gradually improve the output. In the Eastern Province in certain districts the lack of transport and the ease with which the wants of the population are satisfied remain the chief causes retarding the development of the trade. From Opobo, the most important trading district in the Eastern Province, 25 per cent. more oil is shipped than from the Western Province, whereas the quantity of palm kernels exported amounts to 25 per cent. that of the Western Province. The difficulties of transport compared with the facilities in Lagos to some extent account for the difference, but the chief reason is the backward condition of the Ibibio and Kwa races. The average for 1907, with the high prices prevailing in the European market for kernels, was 137 gallons of oil to one ton of kernels, compared with 350 gallons in 1904, when not

more than three quarters of last year's prices were paid by the merchants. In the early days of the Protectorate the Opobo merchants paid over to the chiefs a larger percentage of the price paid for oil than for kernels, and the European traders by these "dashes" encouraged the oil trade to the detriment of the kernel trade. The chiefs compelled their people to trade in oil as affording them larger profits and presenting fewer difficulties. In consequence the Opobo native traders for years despised the kernel trade as "a small boy's trade," prices being small and profits less, with the consequence that only women and small traders engaged in it. Although all "dashes" have for many years been abolished, the up-river markets are still dominated by the Opobo chiefs, who do little to develop this trade, as they make ample profits on the oil trade, and their whole time is occupied in dealing with and transporting the more profitable produce. The extensive clearing of the Imo River and its tributaries by the Government in 1907 and 1908 will assist in hastening the further development of this trade which is sure ultimately to take place.

22. The quantities and value of rubber exported during the year under review compared with the previous year are:—

1907.	1906.
2,843,823 lbs.—£244,989.	3,434,279 lbs.—£307,077

The decrease in the export is due to the fact that tapping has been prohibited in some of the principal rubber districts. Officers of the Forestry Department give instruction to natives as to the best means of tapping and preparing rubber for the European market. All the rubber exported at present is forest produce. There are large tracts of land in well-situated areas throughout the country suitable for planting Para rubber, and plantations of Para and Funtumia *Elastica* rubber started in recent years in the Central Province are doing well.

23. The value of the exports of timber, compared with the preceding year, is as shown below:—

1907.	1906.
£69,241	£68,718

The bulk of the timber exported was procured from West African mahoganies, valued at £62,834; the value of other timber amounted to £6,407.

24. The following are the export values of cotton for the last two years:—

1907.	1906.
£107,891	£51,906

Cotton has been exported for many years from Lagos, and the value of the exports (at the high prices then current) in 1869 amounted to £77,000. In 1903 the British Cotton Growing Association, aided materially by the Government,

commenced serious operations. At that time the average exports for four years past had been only 15,000 lbs. weight, of the value of, say, £375. The actual weight of lint cotton shipped from Lagos in the last two years was:—

1907.	1906.
3,790,345 lbs.	2,294,629 lbs.

The Commercial Intelligence Officer in reporting on the trade of the country writes:—

“Cotton is already grown for local use in most of the districts which will be served by the railway now in course of construction, and it is cultivated so cheaply that in the north I bought seed cotton at a price which would permit of its being landed at Liverpool at 3½*d.* per lb., after allowing for the cost of ginning and rail and steamer freights, &c. Even on the borders of Southern Nigeria, pure coarse country cloths, made from cotton, grown, ginned, spun, and woven locally, can be bought at a price which works out at only 10*d.* per lb. in the cloth. To anyone who has travelled through the country beyond the palm belt, and has given attention to the extraordinary low prices at which locally-grown produce and native manufactures are sold, there can be no doubt as to Nigeria having the handicap in its favour so far as labour values amongst the natives themselves are concerned.

“In the Lagos Province we have in the fifth year shipped a crop of 9,000 bales of 400 lbs., and it must not be forgotten that this has been produced in a country where there are strong competing industries which will not apply to anything like the same extent beyond Ikerun, and that only hoes and manual labour have so far been used on the farms, no draught animals being employed. In the open country which the railway is now entering, cattle and donkeys can live and thrive, and from the condition of the majority of the farms I saw in the north I consider ploughing will be feasible.

“The important points to be considered with a view to properly developing the cotton industry, are, to my mind:—

“(a) The maintenance of staple buying rates.

“(b) Careful selection of seed, giving particular attention to the improvement of indigenous varieties.

“(c) Suitable rotation of crops bringing in something which can be exported—ground-nuts for example.

“(d) Introduction of ploughs and other labour-saving implements, and

“(e) The presence on the spot of the merchants whose assorted goods will induce the natives to work.”

25. The quantity and value of the export of cocoa, compared with the preceding year, are as follows:—

1907.	1906.
2,089,226 lbs.—£47,840.	1,619,987 lbs.—£27,054

Three-quarters of the cocoa exported is grown in the Western Province, the figures for the last two years being:—

	1907.	1906.
	lbs.	lbs.
Western Province ...	1,525,089	1,153,439
Central „ „ „ „ „	1,936	1,284
Eastern „ „ „ „ „	562,201	465,263

There is ample scope for expansion of this crop, as excellent land is available which could be utilised for the purpose. The export is steadily increasing. It amounted to only 687,845 lbs., valued at £11,206, in 1902.

26. The exports of maize for the last two years are as follows:—

1907.	1906.
9,891 tons—£28,521	13,074 tons—£37,386

At present the whole of the maize exported is grown in the Western Province, and although the returns show that a considerable falling off has taken place, it is said that the business done was really of a more satisfactory nature to the merchants, who refrained from buying green corn, and in consequence there was less loss of weight by $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the 1907 shipments. Owing to the exceptionally dry autumn the second crop in 1907 was a failure.

27. The value of imports and exports exclusive of specie and duties in the last five years is given below:—

	Imports.		Exports.		Total.
	£		£		£
1903 ...	2,128,000	...	1,356,000	...	4,484,000
1904 ...	2,371,000	...	2,635,000	...	5,006,000
1905 ...	2,592,000	...	2,553,000	...	5,145,000
1906 ...	2,847,000	...	2,951,000	...	5,797,000
1907 ...	3,839,000	...	3,863,000	...	7,702,000

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

28. Details of the principal agricultural products have been given in connexion with exports. In addition to cotton, cocoa, and maize, rice is grown to a very small extent in the Western Province. Guinea corn is extensively grown for local consumption in the hinterland of Southern Nigeria, north of the 7th degree of latitude. Ground-nuts grow well in the northern parts of the country, and instruction is being given to the farmers in the best methods of cultivation.

29. Botanical stations exist at Olokemeji in the Western Province, Calabar in the Eastern Province, and Onitsha on the Niger in the Central Province. Experiments are carried

out at these stations to ascertain the most suitable crops for cultivation and the best rotation possible. From these stations large numbers of plants and seeds are distributed to District Commissioners and farmers. The natives are thus readily supplied with plants and seeds suitable for cultivation, and instruction in the best methods of cultivation is obtainable.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

30. Up to 16th October, 1905, the majority of land grants on Lagos Island—of recent years—were made under the Swamps Ordinance by “Swamp Agreements.” The Government sold a portion of an unfilled swamp to a private individual on the understanding that he was to fill it up to a certain level within a fixed time with suitable materials, and, if the conditions were satisfactorily fulfilled, that he should then have a Crown grant of the area in question. The following notice was published on the date mentioned: “Intending applicants for allotments of Swamp Land in the Island of Lagos are informed that no further grants of Swamp Lands for reclamation purposes will be issued until further notice.” Many of the old agreements have not been satisfactorily completed, and this system of swamp reclamation has proved a complete failure.

31. Leases of Crown lands in non-swamp localities are granted from time to time, each case being dealt with on its merits. The rent payable varies according to the locality.

32. The real value of land on Lagos Island and its neighbourhood is very difficult to estimate; so much as £2 (approximately) a square yard has been paid for land on the Marina, the principal business thoroughfare, while even in the poorer portions of the town no land is obtainable at a less rate than 9*d.* to 1*s.* per square yard. There is much speculative buying of land, and the high prices now ruling are probably in excess of the true value.

35. The Supreme Court has recently—in proceedings for the acquisition of land for public purposes taken under the Public Lands Ordinance of 1876—fixed the present value of land in various parts of the Island and its neighbourhood as follows:—Victoria Road (the main trading thoroughfare of the native population) 4*s.* per square yard; Offin Road (one of the swamp-reclaimed areas between the Marina and Carter Bridge) 1*s.* per square yard; Race Course (the better residential quarter) from 1*s.* 9*d.* to 3*s.* per square yard according to position; Ebute Metta, within 1,000 feet of the railway, 1*s.* 3*d.* per square yard; and on the east of the MacGregor Canal at from 5*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* per square yard.

The great difficulty in arriving at any definite value is the fact that adjoining and identical portions of land change ownership at or near the same time at widely divergent rates, and so many of the purchases are merely speculative.

SHIPPING.

34. The following statement shows the steamers and sailing vessels inwards and outwards compared with the previous year:—

Flag.	Entered.				Cleared.			
	1906.		1907.		1906.		1907.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Steam:—								
British	298	504,865	308	505,437	261	443,993	296	484,979
Foreign	177	209,932	166	206,477	181	213,763	180	197,634
Sail:—								
British	3	1,341	2	670	3	1,272	3	1,110
Foreign	1	6	—	—	1	6	—	—
Total	479	716,144	476	712,584	446	659,033	459	683,723

It is not possible to make any further comparison owing to the amalgamation of Lagos with the Southern Nigeria Protectorate in 1906, as ships which called at Lagos also called in some cases at the river ports, and a combination of the statistics of the two places would give a most inaccurate result. The carrying trade is practically divided among British and German ships.

35. The following statement shows the value of the trade carried during the year, compared with the preceding year:—

—	Southern Nigeria.				Porto Novo.			
	1906.		1907.		1906.		1907.	
	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.
Entered ..	£ 2,779,926	£ 363,343	£ 3,923,031	£ 515,875	£ 25,842	£ 10,351	£ 46,291	£ 6,432
Cleared ..	2,400,401	351,017	3,232,395	970,309	40,654	123,409	51,082	111,518
Total ..	5,180,327	1,119,360	7,155,426	1,486,184	66,496	133,760	97,373	118,050

British shipping has captured the greater portion of the increased trade. The trade with Germany during the year totalled £2,100,000, whereas the value of trade carried in foreign ships amounted to £1,486,000 only.

LEGISLATION.

36. The legislation of the year was in the main confined to amendments of existing laws, and the consolidation of the two systems in force in Lagos and in the old Protectorate of Southern Nigeria.

37. The subjects of new legislation include the constitution of lunatic asylums, the institution of a Volunteer Force, the surrender of fugitive criminals from the Protectorate, and the regulation of mining for oil.

38. The Lunatic Asylum Ordinance has been passed for the purpose of providing for the detention and proper treatment of lunatics in the Colony and Protectorate. It provides for the establishment of asylums, the appointment of officers and visitors, the adjudication of persons as lunatics, the discharge of lunatics, and the disposal of lunatics' property; it sets forth the offences, and gives the Governor power to make rules. The Fugitive Criminal Surrender Ordinance provides for the surrender of fugitive offenders between Southern Nigeria and the possessions of foreign Powers in West Africa. The Ordinance regulates the procedure under which criminals may be surrendered, and sets forth the list of crimes for which surrender is permissible. The Volunteer Ordinance was passed in contemplation of the formation of a Volunteer Force in the Colony. The Ordinance provides for the organization of the force, the occasions when the force can be called out for actual military service, its discipline, and miscellaneous matters as to its property, arms, and other matters. The Mining Regulation (Oil) Ordinances of 1907 regulate the raising, winning, and getting of mineral oils in the Colony and Protectorate.

EDUCATION.

PRIMARY EDUCATION AND NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.

39. The course of primary education is according to a syllabus of subjects including the highest Standard prescribed in the English Education Code for elementary schools. But the revised syllabus, which it is hoped will shortly come into force with the new Education Code of the Colony, makes special provision for the teaching of English as a living language. Throughout the schools the elementary matters of instruction received adequate attention.

40. The schools administered under the supervision of the Education Department are of two classes, namely, Government and Assisted schools; to the latter are awarded grants in aid on inspection and examination. The number of Government schools at the end of the year was 6 in the Western Province, 18 in the Central, and 16 in the Eastern, making a total of 40. The number of assisted schools was 36 in the Western, 12 in the Central, and 25 in the Eastern, making a total of 73. The total number of schools under the supervision of the Department was therefore 113.

41. The children under instruction in Government schools were: in the Western Province, 514 boys and 31 girls—total 545, with an average attendance of 394; in the Central Province, 1,073 boys and 145 girls—total 1,218, with an average attendance of 825; in the Eastern Province, 1,036 boys and 39 girls—total 1,075, with an average attendance of 712. The total enrolment of the Government schools in the three provinces was therefore 2,838, and the average attendance 1,931.

42. In the assisted schools the number under instruction was: in the Western Province, 3,681 boys and 1,437 girls—total 5,118, with an average attendance of 2,732; in the Central Province, 1,225 boys and 99 girls—total 1,324, with an average attendance of 1,062; in the Eastern Province, 2,815 boys and 776 girls—total 3,591, with an average attendance of 2,259. The total enrolment of the assisted schools was therefore 10,033, and the average attendance 6,035.

43. It will thus be seen that at the end of the year the total enrolment in Government and assisted schools was, 12,871, and the average attendance 8,984.

44. Besides the schools included in the above totals there is a large number of mission and private schools in each of the provinces which either have not sought, or, on account of inability to comply with the Code, have not obtained financial assistance from the Government. It may also be mentioned that the Education Law of the Colony does not apply to the schools in the interior of the Western Province.

45. Moslem schools exist in the Western Province, and the children in regular attendance numbered about 2,500. The instruction is confined to learning by heart and copying portions of the Koran, and the schools are generally held in the teacher's house or in the open street.

46. What are locally known as "secondary" schools are, strictly speaking, higher grade elementary schools containing classes in which instruction is given in the subjects of the higher Standards of the Education Code, together with a somewhat enlarged curriculum of literary or technical subjects. The fees in these secondary schools are higher, and the teachers are better qualified than those in the elementary schools. The extra subjects taught include a little Latin, Greek, and French, the more elementary parts of algebra and geometry, and such commercial subjects as book-keeping, shorthand, and type-writing.

47. In the Central Province small gardens are attached to 10 Government and 2 assisted schools, and workshops for instruction in carpentry to 6 Government and 1 assisted schools. Similar workshops are also attached to 2 schools in the Eastern Province. All these schools are elementary.

48. Technical departments are also provided in connexion with some of the secondary schools for boys and girls in the Western and Eastern Provinces. There are two boys' schools thus provided: the Government boys' school at Bonny and the Hope-Waddell Institute of the United Free Church of Scotland Mission in Calabar. The three girls' schools thus provided are all at Lagos; two are in connexion with the Roman Catholic Mission, and the third is connected with the Church Missionary Society. In the boys' schools the course comprises wood-sawing, carpentry, joinery, coopering, engineering, telegraphy, printing, tailoring, and also a little gardening. In the girls' schools domestic economy is taught in its various branches, plain needlework, washing and ironing, baking of bread, preparation of native foodstuffs, fancy needlework, and instruction in native industries of any kind according to an approved scheme.

49. Two schools have also been opened at Onitsha in the Central Province, one by the Bishop of Western Equatorial Africa and the other by the Roman Catholic Mission. In these schools all the pupils are really apprentices to some trade or other. They are systematically and practically taught their trade by competent teachers and devote their whole time thereto. At the end of the year the Bishop's school had 32 apprentices under training, including 19 carpenters, 11 sawyers, and 2 turners. This institution has already supplied well-trained apprentices to the Public Works Department. The school itself has also done a large amount of useful work for the Government in the shape of house fittings and furniture made for quarters and offices. At the Roman Catholic Onitsha school 21 apprentices received instruction in carpentry, bricklaying, and joinery throughout the year.

50. In the Western Province two schools for boys and girls have been established by the Roman Catholic Mission at the Topo settlement. Nearly the whole of the time of the boys is devoted to farming, gardening, and cattle-rearing; and the girls are taught the more practical branches of domestic economy. A strong feature of the farming is the cultivation of the cocoanut and the manufacture of copra, large shipments of which are made to France.

51. The manual work introduced in the elementary schools has produced under good direction a remarkable effect on the habit of attention and order and on the physical vigour of the children generally, apart from the industrial and economic results of the instruction given, more especially in backward districts. It should be remembered that some of the elementary schools have been established in places where nothing was previously known of even the rudiments of the arts of carpentry, wood-sawing, or bricklaying. In many parts of the country the first village carpenter or the first village bricklayer has been trained in the industrial department of the village school.

In addition to the technical instruction given in schools large numbers of apprentices are trained in the Government workshops of the Railway, Marine, and Public Works Departments as fitters, joiners, carpenters, builders, boat builders, engine drivers, &c., &c.; and scholarships are given to the best pupils from the schools.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

52. At the Lagos Hospital 1,251 native and 103 European patients were treated as in-patients, and 6,043 (natives) were treated in the out-patient department. 205 operations were performed.

53. The daily average number of Europeans in ward was 4, being nearly double what it was three years ago. The local death-rate of Europeans admitted was 2·9 per cent. The death-rate among natives admitted was 5·1 per cent.

54. At Calabar, in the European Hospital, 107 patients were treated, and there were three deaths. In the Native Hospital 1,058 were treated, of whom 38 died. Cases numbering 4,235 were treated in the out-patient department.

55. European nurses are in attendance at these hospitals. Dispensaries are established in various parts of Lagos Town, while there is a Government Dispensary at all the important stations.

ASYLUMS.

56. The leper asylums at Onitsha, in the Central Province, and at Yaba, near Lagos, afforded refuge to an average of 39 patients.

57. A lunatic asylum has been opened at Yaba, in which 21 patients were housed at the end of the year. There is also a criminal lunatic asylum at Calabar.

SAVINGS BANK.

58. During the year 1907 the operations of the Savings Bank were confined to the town of Lagos and were carried on under the control of the Financial Commissioner; but from the 1st January, 1908, the management has been transferred to the Post Office, and the advantages of this institution extended to the principal stations of the Colony and Protectorate.

59. Sums deposited in the bank during the year amounted to £16,967 as against £17,469 in 1906—a decrease of £502: and withdrawals to £14,169 as against £14,638 in 1906—a decrease of £469.

60. The Savings Bank held a total of £30,813 for 2,668 depositors on 31st December, 1907, as against £28,015 which stood to the credit of 2,414 depositors on 31st December, 1906—an increase of £2,798.

61. A total sum of £24,350 has been invested by the Crown Agents for the Colonies in securities approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on behalf of the Savings Bank. Interest on this sum on 31st December, 1907, amounted to £805, which has been credited to general revenue.

62. Interest at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum computed on the various amounts deposited during the year aggregated £696, of which a sum of £19 was paid to depositors who closed their accounts, the difference, viz., £677, being added to capital in favour of the remaining depositors. The amount realised by interest on invested Savings Bank funds was £805, the difference thus being £109 in favour of the bank.

63. The increase in the number of depositors was 254, while the accounts closed during the year numbered 129.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

64. The authorised establishment on 31st December, 1907, was 1,200, an increase of 116 on the preceding year; and the actual strength was 1,122, consisting of:—

European staff	...	...	...	10
Native staff	...	...	...	12
Clerks, &c.	...	...	...	10
Rank and file	...	...	...	1,090
				<u>1,122</u>

The force was allocated as follows:—

—		Western Province.	Central Province.	Eastern Province.	Total.
Establishment	...	547	73	380	1,200
Actual strength	...	536	247	339	1,122

The cause of this deficiency in establishment was the fact that a reduction in establishment to come into force from 1st January, 1908, of 85 constables, hitherto employed as prison guards, had been determined on, the duties of prison guards being in future undertaken by prison officers.

65. Police were for the first time sent to Oban and Okigwi, two newly-formed districts in the Eastern Province. In the Western Province 16 constables proceeded to Ilesha and relieved a detachment of the Southern Nigeria Regiment.

66. The force are armed with the Martini-Enfield carbine .303.

PRISONS.

67. There are 36 prisons in Southern Nigeria, and in 1907 there were 13,827 prisoners. The chief prisons are at Lagos and Calabar, under the direct supervision of European prison officials; in the other districts the political officers are responsible for superintending the work of the prisons.

68. An outbreak of beri-beri occurred in the Calabar prison, but the spread of the disease was stopped by the transfer of the prisoners to another station. A revision of the prison diets has been made with a view to supplying prisoners with the food to which they are accustomed when free. Instructions have been given by the medical authorities to boil the drinking water.

69. The prisoners are engaged on sanitary work, and clearing Government grounds and keeping them in order. Some industrial work has been carried out, the cash earnings amounting to £355.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

70. The number of persons apprehended or summoned before all the Courts was 5,390, of whom 4,384 were convicted and 1,006 discharged.

—	Western Province.	Central Province.	Eastern Province.	Total.
Convicted ...	1,968	526	1,890	4,384
Discharged ...	387	175	444	1,006
Total ...	2,355	701	2,334	5,390

71. The number of offences dealt with was 3,812, of which 2,064 were indictable and 1,748 non-indictable. Out of the 3,812 cases dealt with, 2,924 resulted in convictions, 801 in acquittals; 5 prisoners were remanded; 13 died before trial; and 69 cases, of which the results are not yet reported, were committed to Assizes.

72. The estimated value (by complainants) of property stolen was £3,118, of which £1,052 was recovered; but the valuation often proved to be exaggerated, and not infrequently reports received of loss were found on examination to be purely hypothetical.

73. The number of "offences against the person" was 1,101, resulting in 716 convictions. The most serious were murder (113) and slave-dealing (292).

74. The number of "offences against property" was 1,246, of which 995 were proved. The most serious were larceny and receiving (1,027) and false pretences (67).

VITAL STATISTICS.

75. The estimated native population of Lagos in 1907 was 57,000 and the European population 400, as compared with 39,387 natives in 1891 and an estimated European population of 100. A census of the population of Southern Nigeria has never been taken; but officers acquainted with various parts of the hinterland have formed estimates of the population, and the result works out at 6,000,000 for the whole country, distributed as follows:—

Western Province	...	...	2,200,000
Eastern Province	...	...	2,200,000
Central Province	...	...	1,600,000

GENERAL STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

76. The general state of health on the whole was as good as in the preceding year so far as Europeans are concerned; regarding natives, there are no reliable statistics except in Lagos Town, where the death-rate is recorded at 39·8 a thousand against 48·5 in the preceding year.

77. In Lagos there was no death among European officials from malaria or blackwater fever, while among other European residents 1 death from malaria occurred as compared with 5 from malaria and 5 from blackwater in 1906. Seven Europeans died in the Western Province compared with 15 in 1906.

78. In the Central Province there were 3 deaths among officials and 6 among non-officials from a population of 301 Europeans, as compared with 6 deaths among officials and 3 deaths among non-officials from a population of 273 in 1906.

79. In the Eastern Province 2 officials and 3 non-officials died, compared with 3 and 6 respectively in the preceding year.

SANITATION AND ANTIMALARIA WORK.

80. The clearing of bush around the settlements and the reclamation of swamp land in the neighbourhood of the various stations steadily continued, special attention being given to the reclamation of the unwholesome swamp areas in Lagos town.

81. A sewage disposal system for Lagos town was inaugurated consisting of the use of dry-earth-pans, with dépôts in various places for the receipt of pans and issue of earth. From the dépôts the sewage is conveyed away by rail. Throughout the country sewage disposal is, on the whole, satisfactory, even in the small settlements, so far as the European quarters are concerned, and in the larger centres the natives are being taught cleanliness and obedience to sanitary demands in this respect, public latrines being provided. The system in vogue, as in Lagos, is the dry-earth-pan, with daily burial of the sewage in trenches in suitable areas, or, in some places, the emptying of the pans into the sea, or central current of the large rivers near their mouths.

82. A scheme of water supply for Lagos town is receiving consideration. At Calabar the water supply is satisfactory and allows of the abolition of tanks and gutters. Tanks and wells supply the water requirements of the country generally, but at a few stations there is good spring water.

83. The main features of the antimalaria work carried out at all stations are:—

- Use of quinine as a prophylactic;
- Destruction of mosquito breeding grounds and larvæ;
- Use of kerosine oil for collections of water which cannot otherwise be treated;
- Clearing of bush;
- Filling of swamp land and surface depressions;
- Use of anti-mosquito wire-gauze for rooms and houses; and
- The use of quinine prophylaxis among natives, which is gradually spreading.

CLIMATE.

84. At the Lagos Observatory the mean temperature was 80·4°; the highest shade temperature was 96° in February, and the lowest 68° in August.

85. The rainfall at stations on the coast or at the mouths of the various rivers is heavier than in the up-country districts. More rain fell at Opobo than at any other station, the rainfall there totalling 216·46". The lowest rainfall was at Shaki, where only 32·82" fell in the year. The rainfall at provincial headquarters was: Lagos, 79·46"; Calabar, 129·68"; Warri, 87·58".

86. The prevailing breeze blows from south to south-west, out during the harmattan, from the end of November to the beginning of February, a breeze blows in the early morning from a north-easterly direction.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

87. There has been a general increase in postal business conducted during the year under review compared with previous years, due to the growth of commerce and the further development of the country.

88. An increase of over 500,000 is shown in the number of articles, exclusive of parcels, passing through the post, and of 22,414 in the number of parcels dealt with, while the number of articles registered and insured has also increased.

89. Money Order business shows a falling off of £6,892, but this decrease is due to the extension of the British Postal Order system. British Postal Orders are now sold and paid at every station at which there is a District Commissioner or other responsible officer, so that against the decrease in Money Order business should be set the increase for the year under review of £22,554 in Postal Order business.

90. In the map accompanying the report the telegraph lines are shown. The principal districts of the country are now in telegraphic communication with Lagos and Bonny, where the African Direct Telegraph Company are established.

MILITARY.

91. The Southern Nigeria Regiment of the West African Frontier Force took part in the following operations during 1907:—

Ishinkwa Patrol, from 2nd to 12th January.

Uruala Patrol, from 17th to 25th February.

Aka Ogoni Patrol, from 14th January to 2nd March.

Ikot Ekpene Patrol, from 15th February to 11th March.

Etchi and Ngor Patrol, from 25th July to 20th September.

Ntarappu Ishianjo Patrol, in which Captain E. de H. Smith, who commanded, was fatally wounded.

92. A Volunteer Force was established in the year under review.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

RAILWAY.

93. The gross revenue of the Lagos Railway for the year amounted to £139,747, the working expenses to £74,435, and the net revenue to £65,312. The capital cost of the line in operation during 1907 cannot be exactly determined, as construction to Oshogbo was going on during the whole year. The approximate cost may, however, be placed at £1,640,000. On this sum the interest at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. amounts to £57,400, and as the net revenue was £65,304, the railway yielded a profit of nearly £8,000 after paying all expenses. This result, achieved for the first time since the railway was opened in 1901, is satisfactory.

94. The number of passengers carried in 1907 was 188,419, at a charge of £24,872, compared with 125,584 carried in the preceding year at a charge of £17,401. Taking into consideration the increase caused by the extension, the Iddo-Ibadan passenger traffic increased by 14,000, or 11 per cent. on 1906 traffic.

95. The tonnage of goods conveyed was 82,900, and the income derived therefrom £107,224, compared with 55,784 tons in the preceding year producing £62,957.

96. The increased business done is due to the opening of the Iwo-Oshogbo section, and to the Ibadan-Iwo section being only opened in October, 1906, and therefore not contributing largely to the revenue obtained in that year. The actual increase of local goods traffic on the Iddo-Ibadan section was worth £8,737.

ROADS.

97. The construction of railway feeder roads has been actively carried on in the northern districts of the Western Province; and a road has been commenced with the object of establishing road communication between the Marine Works at Apapa, the railway, and Lagos. The metalling of Lagos town roads has been continued.

98. In the Central Province road construction was carried on with the usual energy in all the districts. On the road connecting Warri, Sapele, and Benin City 38 miles of earth-works were completed. The road connecting Onitsha with Awka, a sub-district 23 miles inland, was finished. A road between Onitsha and Oguta has also been commenced; and six miles of a cart road connecting Asaba with Okpanam (9 miles), where lignite deposits are known to exist, have been completed.

99. In the Eastern Province the construction of a road connecting Calabar with Uwet, on the Calabar River, and Itu on the Cross River, and extending thence to Ikot Ekpene, has been continued. The latter road will ultimately be continued from Ikot Ekpene to Awka, and so establish a main trunk road between the Niger and the Cross Rivers. Road construction was carried on in all the districts.

WATERWAYS.

100. The work of waterway clearing has continued steadily throughout the year. In the Eastern Province the River Imo and its tributaries the Otaminie and the Azuminie were cleared and opened up. The Osse River, in the Benin City district, was cleared for canoe traffic and the passage of logs from the neighbouring timber concessions. The waterways between Benin River and Lagos were kept clear of sudd blocks to allow the passage of timber rafts and the free passage of the river.

101. During the year a canal was cut connecting the Ologi Creek and Benin River and having its entrance just below Koko town, one of the principal timber ports in the Central Province. The canal, which is three-quarters of a mile in length, is 20 feet wide, and the depth is 2 feet, so that logs from the timber concessions of the Benin country can be easily floated through. A journey of 16 miles down the Ologi Creek is thereby saved.

MARINE SERVICES.

102. In the Western Province there are two services:

- (i) Lagos—Porto Novo Service.—A mail and passenger service run weekly from Lagos to Porto Novo and back. The number of passengers carried was 2,785, an increase of 880 on the previous year.
- (ii) Lagos—Siluko.—A similar service to the above. The number of passengers carried was 2,701, an increase of 659 on the previous year. Its importance lies in the fact that a weekly mail service is maintained between Lagos and the timber concession and bitumen district.

103. In the Central Province the Niger Transport Service was carried out by Southern Nigeria until May, when it was handed over to Northern Nigeria, that Administration becoming responsible for serving the demands of both Northern and Southern Nigeria.

104. In the Eastern Province the transport service on the Cross River has worked well during the year. During the

wet season all launches and lighters were employed to the fullest capacity, and in many cases it was difficult to provide sufficient transport.

105. The dry season service on the Cross River is maintained by the motor canoes "Spider" and "Sandfly"; and regular communication with the up-river stations is thus assured.

106. A mail passenger and general transport service is run by launches between Bonny and Akassa, calling at Bakana, Buguma, Degema, and Brass, the chief ports along the route. There is a similar service between Bonny and Opobo. Regular communication is thus maintained between all stations and the homeward and outward mail steamers calling at Bonny.

The services are much appreciated by the public to whom they are a great convenience.

OYO—IBADAN MOTOR SERVICE.

107. Considerable improvement has taken place in the working of this service, which, although not directly remunerative, is much more convenient and expeditious than head portorage, and is materially assisting in developing the trade of Oyo. In addition cheaper and better transport has been available for the carrying of Government material to the Oyo district, releasing for agricultural pursuits natives who would otherwise be employed as carriers by the Government and the commercial community.

PUBLIC WORKS.

108. In Lagos the first and second wings of the Public Offices were completed and at once occupied.

Quarters for six European officials and two rest-houses were completed, in addition to various minor works.

109. In the Central Province the steamer pier at Forcados was nearly completed at the end of the year. Three hundred acres, have been laid out at this station in roads and plots, with tidal drains cut to take off all surface water, and the whole place has been thoroughly cleared.

110. Warri has been thoroughly cleared; bungatows have been erected, gardens and grounds laid out, and much drainage work done.

111. At Onitsha a European hospital has been erected and several minor works carried out.

112. In the Eastern Province the principal work has been the continuation of the drainage and sanitation scheme for

Duke Town, consisting of road formation and drain construction throughout the town.

IMPORTANT EVENTS.

113. The Iwo-Oshogbo section of the railway, 30 miles in length, was opened for public traffic at the end of April, 1907, bringing the length of open lines up to 186 miles from Lagos. The work of extension to Ilorin, 62 miles from Oshogbo, was in progress during the year; and, in August, the sanction of the Secretary of State was received to the further construction of the railway to Zungeru, whence a junction is to be effected with the Baro-Kano line now being built by the Government of Northern Nigeria. The completed line will extend to approximately 460 miles from Lagos. The Secretary of State's sanction to the expenditure of £40,000 was received towards the close of the year for increased facilities in the way of workshops, running sheds, traffic sidings, &c., at Ebute Metta, the railway headquarters. These extensions are necessary, as the present arrangements only suffice for the Iddo-Ibadan section.

114. At the end of May, 1907, the steam-dredger "Egerton" arrived at Lagos, and dredging operations on the bar commenced. On 28th July a direct channel on which the dredger was working was brought into use; and this channel having kept open, the draught for vessels was increased from 10 feet to 10 feet 6 inches on 31st December, and at the time of writing is 13 feet.

115. There have been no important changes in the civil establishment of the Colony during the year 1907. His Excellency Sir Walter Egerton, K.C.M.G., was absent on leave from 14th May to 27th October, and during that period Mr. J. J. Thorburn, C.M.G., Lieutenant-Governor and Colonial Secretary, administered the Government. Mr. F. S. James, C.M.G., Provincial Commissioner, acted as Colonial Secretary from 30th March to 7th May, during Mr. Thorburn's absence on a sick trip, and from 14th May to 27th October, while the latter acted as Governor.

116. The following officers were in charge of the Eastern and Central Provinces during the year, 1907:—

Eastern Province.

Mr. H. Bedwell. 1st January to 14th May.

Mr. H. A. Simpson-Gray. 15th May to 23rd May.

Lieutenant H. A. Child, R.N. 24th May to 6th June.

Mr. W. F. W. Fosbery, C.M.G. 7th June to 31st December.

Central Province.

Mr. F. S. James, C.M.G. 1st January to 29th March.

Mr. R. Roberts. 30th March to 17th June.

Mr. H. Bedwell. 18th June to 31st December.

The Provincial Commissioner, Western Province, was appointed His Britannic Majesty's Consul for the Colony of Dahomey and its Dependencies on 15th October, 1907.

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF TRADE.

117. Under ordinary conditions the expansion of trade in Southern Nigeria must continue for many years. The factors which have had so favourable an effect on the trade of the year under review will continue to operate towards developing the resources of the country. It has been shown that the palm-kernel trade of the Eastern and Central Provinces is capable of yielding at least 80,000 tons more kernels in the districts in which trade is at present carried on, and further development is to be expected from the newly-controlled districts. As the influence of the middleman over the people of what are now the interior markets is replaced by more direct trade between the merchants and the consumers, a further impetus will be given to trade. Improved transport facilities and means of communication will set free a large number of people now engaged in carrying head loads and as paddlers in canoes, a matter of great importance in the present comparatively undeveloped state of the country. At present the operations of the trading companies are confined to the banks of the rivers, and practically the whole transport to the factories is by head load or canoes under native supervision with little co-operation.

118. There are large tracts of land in Southern Nigeria suitable for rubber and cocoa-growing, and plantations of these products have already been started.

119. In the Western Province there is some likelihood that in the country between Lagos and Benin River mineral oil will be found in paying quantities, and oil-boring operations are being carried out by the Nigeria Bitumen Corporation, who have received financial assistance in the shape of a loan from the Government. In this province agriculture has rapidly developed and suitable land is available for the cultivation of cocoa, maize, and cotton, which are being actively grown for export. The extension of the railway and the construction of feeder roads are opening up a country in which cotton has for many years been grown for local use. Among the minor industries to be developed in the northern districts ground nuts and shea produce may be mentioned.

120. The Commercial Intelligence Officer has reported as follows on the prospects of the northern trade:—"In touching upon the possibilities of expansion in the near future, perhaps the most important factor to be noted is the rapid extension of the Lagos Railway, which is now entering the Ilorin Province of Northern Nigeria on its way to join the Baro-Kano line near Zungeru. Having travelled over a good portion of the country which will feed the Oshogbo-Ilorin section of the railway, I am of the opinion, as already indicated, that business on a large scale may be looked for within the next few years from that district as the outcome of agricultural development, and that an important cash trade will soon be done at Ilorin town. After Ilorin, a matter for the early consideration of the merchants will be as to the desirability of opening up at Jebba, where the railway reaches the Niger. Although factories at Jebba are certain to stimulate trade in the Borgu and Kontagora Provinces, it should be remembered that those districts of Northern Nigeria are at present sparsely populated, and that the navigation of the river above Jebba and near Boussa is very difficult. Consequently the immediate outlook for that station as a trading centre is not so bright as a glance at the map would appear to indicate. At the same time it would seem probable that there would be a good opening there for some of the Lagos firms which are not over eager for immediate profits, and that, in addition to such produce as the Borgu and Kontagora people can work, a fair trade from the Sokoto Province should find its way to Jebba.

"Looking to the more distant future when—within five years it is hoped—Lagos will be in communication with Kano by rail, an enormous field in the Upper Zaria and Kano Provinces will be accessible to our merchants. From the Ilorin Province up to Zaria town the population on the railway route is very scanty, but beyond there is a dense population—more than that of the whole of the Western Province of Southern Nigeria—and a very large business indeed may in the course of a few years from the opening of the line be reasonably expected from the northern section of the railway. Superficially it may be thought that the Kano trade will be done *via* Baro and the Niger, and I agree in thinking that cheap produce—shea-nuts, ground-nuts, salt, &c.—will probably be worked by river, but I believe that the bulk of the trade in Manchester and other European goods will pass through Lagos, and that it is not improbable that a large proportion of down freights in the way of raw cotton will also come this way, for it must be remembered that the cotton crops are gathered at a time when the Niger is not in flood. At the same time I think the Lagos produce merchants following the line will later on need to give consideration to the idea of having forwarding depôts at Baro to deal with coarse produce and salt. It will be remembered that the important trade centre of Bida lies between Baro and the junction of the Lagos Railway with the Baro-Kano line.

"In connection with this distant trade, some reference may be made here to the Soudan skin export business from the Lagos Province. Ten years ago this did not exist from Lagos, but in 1907 £12,700 was contributed to the export total, a comparatively insignificant sum, but one which, by the rate of progress seen during the last four or five years, gives good promise for the future, although the trade has its limitations at about £50,000 per annum. The following table shows the value of skins and hides exported from the Western Province only:—

	£
1904	674
1905	1,530
1906	3,382
1907	12,702

The total shipments from the whole of Southern Nigeria in 1906 and 1907 were valued at £3,462 and £12,937, respectively, which indicates how the Hausa caravan people prefer to travel overland to Lagos rather than dispose of their skins at trading stations on the Niger, where limited assortments of goods are stocked. Formerly the skin trade of Kano and other northern centres went almost entirely across the desert to Tripoli, which is three times as far from Kano as Lagos. In addition to the total exports from Southern Nigeria quoted, there was a considerable business done between Kano and London in these skins by parcel post. So far as Lagos is concerned it must be understood that what was aimed at all along was not so much the profits resulting directly from the skin exports, as the return trade in European goods and especially the introduction of Lagos qualities into the markets in the upper parts of Northern Nigeria. The business has been the means of bringing down very considerable numbers of Hausa caravans in addition to the ordinary potash and live-stock caravans, and it may fairly be claimed that good work has been done in the way of convincing the northern natives of the value of Lagos as a great and free market.

* * * * *

"Amongst the potentialities of agricultural development in the upper parts of Nigeria which will be served by the Kano Railway, should be numbered wheat and tobacco in addition to cotton and ground-nuts. Possibly dye-stuffs may also contribute. All are now cultivated to some extent, and in the Katsena sub-province of Kano I saw some really fine farms of tobacco and so-called indigo. Wheat was to be had at Zaria, Kano, Katsena, and Sokoto, but does not appear to be largely grown at present, the consumption being apparently confined to the ruling native classes, and to the Europeans who have bread made from the wheat-meal."

121. The climate of Southern Nigeria is unsuited to, and unhealthy for, Europeans. In a few of the up-country stations

the climate is not so unhealthy as in the swamp districts, but the conditions of living are difficult, and generally those Europeans who remain in Southern Nigeria for periods in excess of twelve months at a time suffer in health. With reasonable precautions Europeans can remain twelve months at a time in most districts without suffering evil effects to any great extent from the climate.

122. The majority of the Europeans in Southern Nigeria who are not in Government service are employed by the various companies which are established in the country for the purpose of trade, timber-working, &c. There is a fair supply of native talent to meet the demands for clerical work and skilled labour.

123. The cost of living for Europeans varies, but for foremen of works, telegraph inspectors, &c., the average cost is 5s. a day. To the native labourer the cost of living nowhere exceeds 3d. a day. The cost of unskilled labour varies from 6d. to 1s. a day. Where native skilled labour is employed wages vary from £2 to £6 a month. Blacksmiths, bricklayers, carpenters, painters, coopers, and engine drivers are paid from £4 to £6 a month. Fitters, moulders, and tin-smiths are paid somewhat less. Owing to the demand for labour on account of the railway and other works wages are increasing.

124. There is an ample field for the investment of capital in the palm oil and kernel trade of Southern Nigeria, especially in the neighbourhood of the Cross and the Imo Rivers. The establishment of rubber plantations affords another field for the investment of capital, as there are large tracts of country admirably suited for growing rubber. Lands exist suitable for growing cotton, cocoa, maize, ground-nuts and other agricultural products requiring capital for their development. These areas are well populated. In the timber industry another field is open to the capitalist.

SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

125. In the Western Province there has been little disturbance during the year. At Ibadan, the chief town in the northern portion of the province, there was some restlessness which ended in the resignation at the end of the year of the late Bale—a weak ruler who had lost the confidence of his people. The establishment of the capital of Southern Nigeria at Lagos has added considerably to the wealth of the Yoruba people. In a portion of the swamp country between Lagos and Benin River, the Ikaes, a tribe nearly akin to the Binis, drove out their principal chief, the Bale of Igbotako, and refused to receive the District Commissioner. The people are of a low type and indulge in barbarous practices. The matter has now been settled, and for a time a Commissioner will be stationed in the immediate neighbourhood to assist the Bale

in the reforms which he is anxious to introduce for the good of his people.

126. In the Central Province no disturbances of any importance have occurred, the good work done and constant travelling by the District Officers having induced the natives of the province to place more confidence in the Government. Inter-tribal disputes have been unknown during the year, a fact bearing eloquent testimony to the changed condition of native affairs as far as this province is concerned.

127. In the Eastern Province progress has been made during the year in extending the influence of the Government in areas hitherto unoccupied and in the pacification of disturbed areas. The Provincial Commissioner reports as follows on the improved conditions brought about during the year in the various districts:—"In the Ibibio country, which a few years ago was closed to all comers, white or black, and where inter-tribal warfare existed almost between every neighbouring town, with all the other evils which such a state brought, the present situation is most promising. Barbarous customs, such as cannibalism, human sacrifice, twin-killing, slave dealing, &c., are no longer openly indulged in, and if they are practised the offenders are sure to be detected and brought to justice. Disputes are settled in Court instead of by matchets and guns. Roads extend in all directions and trade has largely increased.

"A remarkable transformation has also been brought about in the country administered by the officer at Omoduru, where conditions similar to those mentioned above prevailed when the country was occupied in 1906. Offences against human life are now rare and slave-dealing is largely on the decline, notwithstanding the efforts of the Aros, who overrun the northern and eastern portions of this district and exercise a pernicious influence over the natives, spreading evil reports as to the intentions of the Government and doing all in their power to prevent the peaceful penetration of the country by Government officers.

"These Aros are continually seizing and selling people, and are most difficult to find out, as they have a powerful hold over the natives, who are afraid to give evidence against them. They cause the same trouble in and around Abakaliki.

"In Ahoada district strides have been made in opening up the Ekpaffia country to trade and gaining the confidence of the natives. By tactful and careful handling, these people have been gradually brought under control, but are still very uncivilized and find it hard to drop old customs such as trial by ordeal, witchcraft, &c., but already appreciate justice administered through the Native Courts which have been established.

"Excellent progress has been made in the Bende district in improving relations between the Government and the natives

and in bringing the country to the south-west and north-west under control. In this district also the Aros give much trouble by their favourite pastime, slave-dealing.

“Much good work has been done from the station at Abakaliki, where complex questions caused by disputes over land boundaries between the Ezzas and Ezzis have had to be dealt with. The Ezzas are the predominant tribe, and, prior to the advent of the Government, absorbed many miles of the country belonging to their neighbours at the expense of continual warfare. Matters have been greatly improved, and although the land question is still a sore point with the Ezzis, the foundation of friendly relations has been well laid.”

GENERAL CONDITION OF THE COLONY AND PROTECTORATE.

128. Progress in the social condition of the people and expansion in the trade of the country have been remarkable during the year under review. There has been no relaxation in the efforts of Government to make remote districts easily accessible, improve the means of communication and transport, promote friendly intercourse between the natives of various tribes, and to suppress the slavery, cannibalism, and barbarous practices of the natives of the interior districts. The improvements in the means of communication, besides resulting in an increased trade, have tended to establish peace and good order in the remote districts of the country and to lessen the difficulties of administration.

129. The financial position of the country has been considerable strengthened during the year. The railway has been extended, more roads have been constructed, preparations for opening Lagos harbour have been made, and extensive public works have been carried out during the year. The revenue of the Colony amounts to £1,460,000, and the public debt on 31st December, 1907, amounted to £2,000,000 only.

The surplus balance has increased in amount from £475,500 to £632,000. There is practically no direct taxation, more than eight-tenths of the revenue being derived from customs duties. The free list has been much increased and most necessary articles of general consumption are now admitted free of duty. One-tenth of the revenue is made up of railway receipts. Rapid expansion in trade continues. The development of agriculture during the year has been most marked, especially in the Western Province. Education is steadfastly progressing, though the lack of proper native teachers is still felt. The transfer of the Savings Bank from the control of the

Financial Commissioner to the Post Office and its extension to the principal towns in the country will be of benefit to the community as soon as the natives realize the advantages afforded. Constant effort is being made by Government to improve the sanitation of the towns, and the natives are beginning to understand the benefits thereby accruing to themselves. In Lagos there has been some difficulty in securing sites for European residences, and although there was perturbation among the natives at the acquisition of the land required for administrative purposes, the ample awards given for the properties affected cannot fail to have satisfied even the most discontented. Improvements in the conditions of life in Lagos and the principal centres of the Colony are remarkable. Substantial houses and shops are being erected by both Europeans and natives; the principal roads are being improved, and wheeled traffic is gradually increasing. Four years ago there were one or two bicycles in use in Lagos; now-a-days there are thousands used throughout the country. There is no indication of any discontinuance of the progress in commerce and improvement in the social condition of the people—marked features in the condition of the Colony during the last few years and more especially during the year under review.

130. A map of Southern Nigeria, together with a chart showing the expansion of Southern Nigeria, from 1900 to 1907, and a statement of the importation of spirits during the last five years, is included with this report. I also attach a statement of the economic investigations conducted on behalf of the Colony at the Imperial Institute during the year 1907.

F. S. JAMES,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Secretariat, Lagos,
7th September, 1908.

APPENDIX.

I.

ECONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE
DURING THE YEAR 1907 FOR THE COLONY OF SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

Reports from the Imperial Institute have been made to the Government of Southern Nigeria on the following subjects, on the basis of investigations conducted in the Scientific and Technical Department, followed, when necessary, by technical trials by manufacturers and commercial experts. In many cases recommendations have been made as to the further action which is required in the Colony in order to develop the production of those materials for which it is probable that there would be a satisfactory commercial demand.

Rubber.

Two specimens of Funtumia rubber were forwarded for examination, but proved to be too small for analysis. Very satisfactory commercial valuations were, however, obtained.

The latex from a species of Mimusops, probably *M. Djave*, has been investigated. The product obtained on coagulation is of resinous character and would have very little commercial value.

Timbers.

A set of timbers representing twenty-two of the chief woods obtainable in the Colony has been examined at the Imperial Institute and full report supplied regarding their working qualities and mechanical properties. A number of these timbers would be suitable for export to the United Kingdom if the cost of collection and transport does not prove to be too high.

Cotton.

Eight samples of ginned cotton, consisting of native and hybrid varieties grown on the Moor Plantation, Lagos, were examined. They were of good quality and were valued a little higher than "middling" American cotton.

Sixteen samples of ginned cotton from the Government Plantation at Oloke-Meji had apparently been grown from American seed, with the exception of one of native "khaki" cotton. The American varieties were of very good quality, and were valued at from 6*d.* to 7½*d.* per lb. when "middling" American was quoted at 6·64*d.* per lb.

Seven samples consisting of American native and hybrid varieties were also examined and found to be of good marketable quality.

A sample of Ishan native cotton yarn was forwarded for examination. There is no demand in this country for native-spun yarn, but it is probable that the raw cotton of which the yarn is composed would command a ready sale in the English market.

Fibres.

Samples of jute grown experimentally in Southern Nigeria were forwarded for examination. The fibre was very weak, and owing to its matted and tangled condition it was valued at not more than a few pounds per ton for use as tow. This unsatisfactory result was probably due to over-retting. Other jute-like fibres from *Hibiscus esculentus* and *H. lunariifolius* were also examined.

Shea Nuts and Butter.

Four samples of Shea nuts, the seeds of *Butyrospermum Parkii*, and one sample of the fat (known as "Shea butter") extracted from these seeds were received for examination. The fat was valued at £27 5s. to £27 10s. per ton (December, 1907).

Seeds of Minusops Djave.

These seeds were found to contain a fat which resembles Shea butter, and would have similar commercial applications.

Seeds of Ricinodendron Species.

"Nsa-sana" seeds, probably derived from a species of *Ricinodendron*, were examined and found to contain an oil which could be utilised as a substitute for T'ung oil.

Maize.

A memorandum on the cultivation, preparation, and marketing of maize was prepared for the Government of Southern Nigeria.

Food Grains.

Samples of food grains from the Ilorin Province, Northern Nigeria, were forwarded to the Imperial Institute by the Acting Colonial Secretary in Lagos. Specimens of white and red guinea corn were pronounced by commercial experts to be superior to Indian Dari and were valued at 25s. and 24s. per 480 lbs. in London respectively.

A sample of rice proved to be equal in quality to Bengal rice and worth about 9s. 6d. per hundredweight.

A variety of Millet ("Gero") was unknown to English buyers, and will be further investigated.

Ninkon Fruits.

Specimens of Ninkon fruits which are used in West Africa as a sweetening agent were examined. The fruits would have no commercial value in this country.

Minerals.

The following reports on the examination of the minerals collected in the course of the Mineral Survey were made during 1907 :—

Lignite from Moroko, Lagos.

Galena and Zinc Blende from Enyibi and Awarakum.

Limestone from the Oshogbo-Ilorin section of the railway.

A number of new exhibits from Southern Nigeria were received in the course of the year, and have been added to the West African Court in the Public Galleries of the Imperial Institute. Descriptive labels have been provided for the exhibits, and maps and statistical tables of information relating to the country have also been added. A catalogue of the Southern Nigeria exhibits has been prepared for publication in the "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute." During the year a collection of exhibits from the Southern Nigeria Court was lent to the Colonial Products Exhibition at Liverpool.

Mr. G. C. Dudgeon, Superintendent of Agriculture for West Africa, has been in constant communication with the Imperial Institute on all matters connected with agricultural operations and developments, and has transmitted numerous specimens of economic products for examination at the Imperial Institute.

II.

Statement showing the importation of spirits into Nigeria during the five years ended 31st December, 1907.

Year.	Quantity in gallons.*	Declared value.	Revenue derived from duties.	Duty chargeable.	Explanations.
1903 ..	2,797,308	£ 220,871	£ 419,548	3s. the imperial gallon not exceeding proof by Sykes's hydrometer.	Gallnage shown at proof strength to 28th February, 1905.
1904 ..	3,190,339	277,300	473,846		
1905 ..	2,811,438	262,256	499,024	From 1st March, 1905, 3s. 6d. the imperial gallon, not exceeding 124 degrees below proof by Sykes's hydrometer, and an additional 4d. for every degree or part of a degree in excess of 124 degrees.	From 1st March, 1905, duty being charged on liquid gallons, the figures are so included in the returns instead of in proof gallons.
1906 ..	3,321,993	301,738	600,784	From 22nd December, 1906, 4s. the imperial gallon, not exceeding 50 degrees by Tralles Alcoholometer, and an additional 1d. for every degree or part of a degree in excess of 50 degrees.	Spirit imports amounted to 10·6 per cent. of whole inward trade.
1907 ..	4,055,209	385,505	806,942	—	Spirit imports amounted to 10 per cent. of whole inward trade.

* The quantity actually taken into consumption as shown for each year.

III.

Expansion of Southern Nigeria, 1900–1907.

—				1900.	1904.	1907.
Railways—						
Miles...	...	...	...	Nil.	126	187
Passengers ...	...	...	No.		116,267	188,419
Goods ...	...	...	Tons		46,203	82,900
Receipts ...	Gross	...	£		60,336	139,747
" ...	Net	...	£		6,942	65,312
Postal Statistics—						
Letters and Postcards	...	...	...	Not available.	978,928	1,738,308
Cotton Exports (Lint)—						
Pounds (weight) ...	...	...	...	24,080	1,148,551	4,089,530
Value ...	...	...	£	453	14,831	97,043
Palm Oil, Exports (Imperial Gallons)	...	...	...	12,761,585	16,225,175	18,332,531
Value ...	...	...	£	681,296	929,170	1,313,960
Palm Kernels, Exports	...	...	Tons	85,624	139,788	133,630
Value ...	...	...	£	833,631	1,278,394	1,658,292
Specie—						
Imports ...	...	...	£	210,803	289,577	599,566
Exports ...	...	...	£	131,834	148,325	130,802
Telegraph Lines—						
Miles...	...	...	...	263	608	1,281

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
551	Northern Nigeria	1906-1907
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906-1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar	"
564	Ashanti... ..	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1906-1907
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907
567	Seychelles	"
568	Bermuda	"
569	Weihaiwei	"
570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta	1907
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907-1908
575	Bahamas	"
576	Gambia... ..	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907-1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907
579	St. Lucia	"
580	Fiji	"
581	Mauritius	"
582	Straits Settlements	"

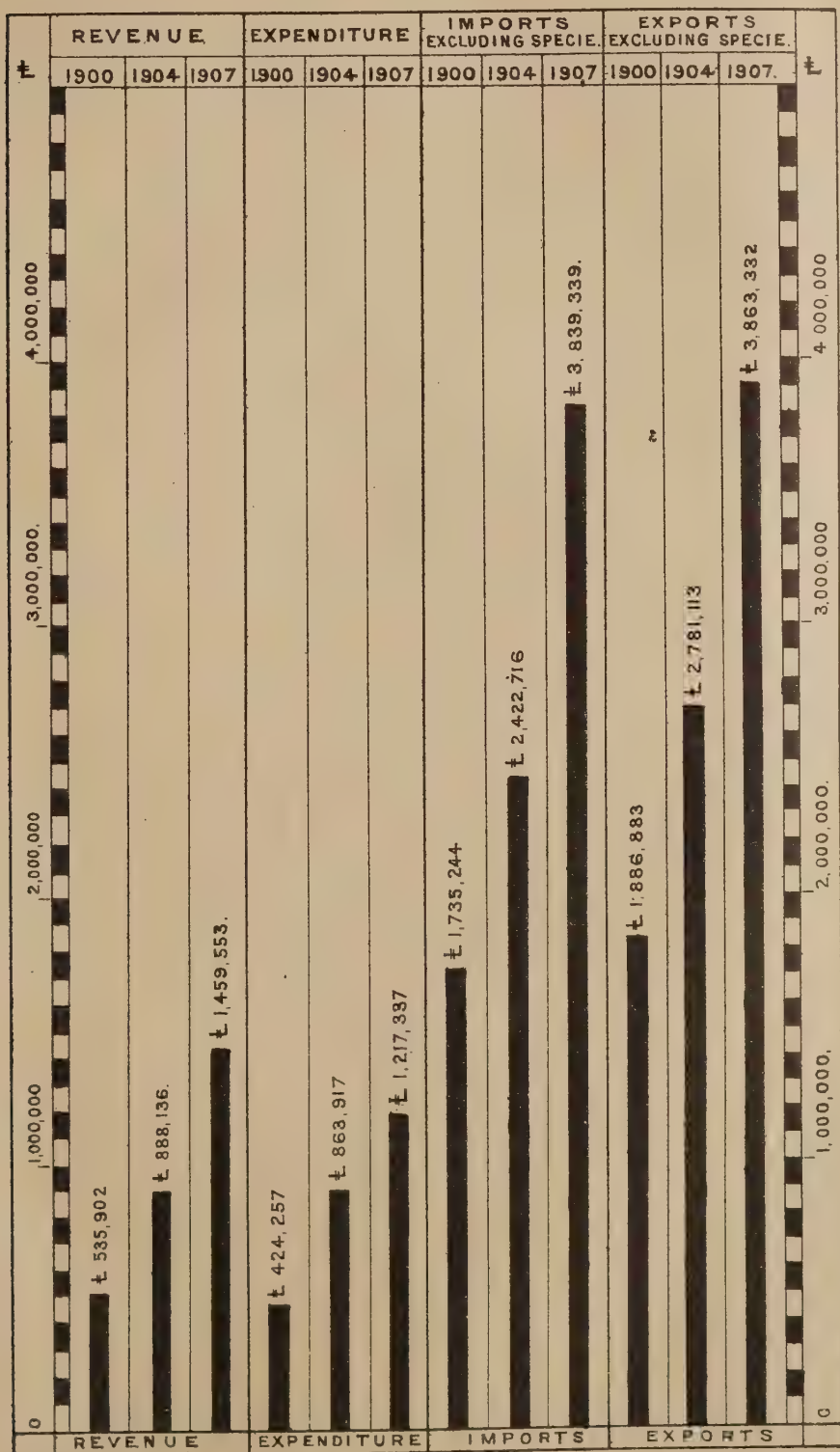
MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
49	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c.	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate... ..	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907-08.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's Visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks and Caicos Islands	Salt Industry.

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1908.

THE EXPANSION OF SOUTHERN NIGERIA, 1900-1907.





COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 574.

NYASALAND PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1907-8.

For Report for 1906-7, *see* No. 537.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1908.



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1908.

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No. 574.

NYASALAND PROTECTORATE.

(For Report for 1906-7, *see* No. 537.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Zomba,
Nyasaland Protectorate,
10th July, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of the Nyasaland Protectorate for the year 1907-8.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED SHARPE,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

I.—FINANCE.

REVENUE.

1. The revenue of the Protectorate for the year 1907-8 was £75,197, exclusive of the grant-in-aid, being £5,733 below the estimate and £6,909 less than during the preceding financial year.

The decrease was chiefly due to a falling off in customs revenue of £6,828, and port, harbour, and wharf dues of £1,243. Native hut tax revenue increased by £986 and postal receipts by £177.

EXPENDITURE.

2. The total expenditure for the year was £105,587, being £5,430 less than estimated and £5,977 less than in 1906-7. The chief decrease was under "military," £26,146 being expended as against £35,642 in 1906-7, a saving of £9,496.

3. The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure for the past five years,—

		Revenue.			Expenditure.
		£			£
1903-4	...	75,895	...	...	102,527
1904-5	...	67,553	...	...	122,771
1905-6	...	76,738	...	...	108,682
1906-7	...	82,106	...	...	111,564
1907-8	...	75,197	...	...	105,587

II.—TRADE.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

4. Trade conditions have remained normal during the past year, but a falling off in native trade has been experienced in consequence of the suspension of recruiting of Nyasaland native labourers for the Transvaal mines, and the completion of earthworks and other operations requiring a large number of labourers on the railway. The amount of money in circulation having fallen off, native trade has been depressed accordingly. This is emphasised by the fact that specie to the value of £14,233 was exported during the year.

The following statement shows the value of imports and exports during the past five years, not including goods in transit:—

			Imports for Home Consumption, £			Exports of Protectorate Products. £
1903-4	...	...	207,686	...	...	27,409
1904-5	...	...	220,697	...	...	48,449
1905-6	...	...	222,581	...	...	56,778
1906-7	...	...	242,935	...	...	50,247
1907-8	...	...	169,541	...	...	68,604

Imports.

5. Imports, including railway material and specie, amounted to £169,541, or £73,394 less than during the previous year. The principal decreases were in soft goods, which are less than the previous year's total by £58,123; specie, £9,100, and hardware, £2,909. The value of railway material imported rose from £35,575 to £37,974. General details are shown in the following table:—

—	1906-7.	1907-8.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Arms and ammunition ...	1,976	1,486	—	490
Alcohol (spirituous liquors) ...	2,518	2,363	—	155
Provisions (including beer and wines).	19,343	19,445	102	—
Hardware ...	13,802	10,893	—	2,909
Soft goods...	128,587	70,464	—	58,123
Free goods...	56,199	57,856	1,657	—
Sundries ...	11,410	7,034	—	4,376
Specie ...	9,100	—	—	9,100
Total ...	242,935	169,541	1,759	75,153

Net decrease, £73,394.

Exports.

6. The export trade has increased by £18,357, including specie, value £14,233. The principal increases were in coffee, £6,792, and tobacco, £2,350. Cotton decreased by £1,346, beeswax by £1,032, and ground-nuts, £1,346.

Statistics are shown in the following tables:—

(A.) EXPORTS during the year ended the 31st March, 1908, as compared with the previous year:—

	1906-7.			1907-8.			Increase.		Decrease.	
	Weight.	Price per lb. (local).	Value.	Weight.	Price per lb. (local).	Value.	Weight.	Value.	Weight.	Value.
Coffee ...	Lbs. 454,111	s. d. 0 5	£ 9,461	Lbs. 780,133	s. d. 0 5	£ 16,253	Lbs. 326,022	£ 6,792	Lbs. —	£ —
Ivory ...	4,781	7 6	1,793	2,630	10 0	1,315	—	—	2,151	478
Hippopotamus teeth...	297	2 0	29	349	2 0	35	52	6	—	—
Rubber ...	16,403	4 3	3,486	15,533	4 3	3,301	—	—	870	185
Oil seeds ...	14,109	0 4	235	19,917	0 4	332	5,808	97	—	—
Beeswax ...	66,779	1 0	3,339	46,152	1 0	2,307	—	—	20,627	1,032
Strophanthus...	31,477	2 6	3,935	29,394	2 6	3,674	—	—	2,083	261
Chillies ...	6,336	0 4	106	32,419	0 4	540	26,083	434	—	—
Tobacco ...	413,316	0 4	6,889	554,395	0 4	9,239	141,079	2,350	—	—
Cotton...	526,119	0 7	15,345	403,486	7d., 8d., 9d.	13,999	—	—	122,633	1,346
Ground-nuts ...	487,663	1d. & 1½d.	2,930	183,789	0 1½	1,149	—	—	303,874	1,781
Sundries ...	—	—	1,590	—	—	2,227	—	637	—	—
Specie ...	—	—	1,109	—	—	14,233	—	13,124	—	—
Totals ...	2,021,391	—	50,247	2,068,197	—	68,604	499,044	23,440	452,288	5,083

(B.) DIRECTION OF TRADE.

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1906-7.	1907-8.	1906-7.	1907-8.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	192,552	128,994	32,663	38,974
India	8,115	10,704	—	—
Australia	527	565	—	—
South Africa	902	934	—	14,871
Transvaal	2,699	—	6,674	6,404
Total British Possessions	12,243	12,203	6,674	21,275
Germany	27,473	11,559	5,070	5,211
Italy	917	1,206	—	—
Holland	3,933	9,003	—	—
Portugal	1,834	2,717	—	2,413
America	197	840	—	—
France	1,510	1,286	—	—
Other Countries	2,276	1,733	5,840	731
Total Foreign Countries	38,140	28,344	10,910	8,355
Total	242,935	169,541	50,247	68,604

(C.) COMPARATIVE TABLE.

Imports and Exports.

The total values of imports and exports (not including goods in transit), as compared with the previous year, are as follows:—

	1906-7.	1907-8.
	£	£
Trade imports	192,258	125,242
Government imports	6,002	6,325
Railway material	35,575	37,974
Specie	9,100	—
Total imports	242,935	169,541
„ exports	50,247	68,604
Grand total	293,182	238,145

Decrease, £55,037.

Transit Trade.

7. The value of goods imported in transit to surrounding territories from countries oversea, amounted to £15,422. Including goods which passed in transit between surrounding

territories the total transit trade amounted in value to £19,041, which is £1,361 less than the total for 1906-7.

Transit exports consist principally of products of surrounding territories which pass through this Protectorate in transit and are exported oversea. The total exports during the year amounted to £4,223, which is £15,632 under the total for the previous year. The previous year, however, included gold-dust to the value of £17,310, disregarding which there is an increase of £1,678.

Trade Prospects.

8. It is not anticipated that there will be any appreciable increase in imports during 1908-9, bearing in mind the fact that there is already a large stock of soft goods in the hands of merchants. It is considered, however, that the export trade will show a marked improvement. The cotton crops in the Shire river valley (which failed in 1906-7) promise to be heavy, and larger areas are under this crop in the Shire highlands. A stimulus will also be given to tobacco-growing by the opening of a buying depôt in Blantyre by the Imperial Tobacco Company, which will do away with the necessity for small planters exporting their own crops and awaiting returns. The cultivation of coffee is being further extended, and as the past rainy season has been a good one, an increase in the export of this article is certain.

Shipping.

9. There has been a decided improvement in the navigability of the Shire river during the past year in comparison with the preceding three seasons. The smaller steamers were able to reach Chiromo till the month of August, and the river again became navigable for all classes of vessels in November and maintained a steady level.

There are 134 vessels on the Chiromo Register of Shipping, classified as follows:—Steamers, 19; barges, 98; and boats, 17. These vessels carried "inwards"—5,777 tons of cargo and 1,211 passengers (of whom 310 were Europeans), and "outwards"—1,777 tons of cargo and 253 European passengers; a total of 6,954 tons and 563 Europeans.

On Lake Nyasa 762 tons of cargo and 60 European and 2,480 native passengers were carried by the Government steamers and 640 tons and 48 European and 319 native passengers by trading steamers. On the Upper Shire the Government steamer and lighters carried 733 tons of cargo and 73 European and 2,790 native passengers.

The bar at the south end of Lake Nyasa, Mponda flats, Malombe bar, and Nandumbo, have been dredged and staked where necessary, and permanent gangs of men have been employed to keep a wide channel clear of weeds and sudd on the Upper Shire river between Lake Nyasa and Liwonde.

III.—AGRICULTURE.

Coffee.

10. This industry was commenced in the year 1894 and coffee still heads the list of exports.

Climatic conditions have been good during the past season, and planters are hopeful of a heavy crop of good quality. The total export from the 1st April, 1907, to 31st March, 1908, was 780,133 lbs., valued at £16,253. This is an increase of 326,022 lbs. on the previous year.

Prices have improved of late. They are, however, not yet sufficiently high to enable planters to make the profit possible ten years ago, but it is hoped that the present somewhat restricted output in Brazil will have the effect of hardening the coffee market.

The following table shows the acreage under cultivation, and the production and values for the last five years, the export value being placed at 5*d.* per lb., from this season's crop:—

Year.	Total Acreage under Cultivation.	Crop exported at 31st March of each year.	Valued at
			£
1904 	8,867	714,743	17,869
1905 	4,880	1,303,655	27,159
1906 	5,273	773,919	16,123
1907 	5,565	454,111	9,461
1908 	6,134	780,133	16,253

Tobacco.

11. The cultivation of tobacco has become established as a standard industry of the country within the last few years. During the past year 554,395 lbs. were exported, valued at £9,239, as against 413,316 lbs. during 1906-7.

Owing to a drought in January, 1907, and a subsequent prolonged rainy season, the quality of the crop was not up to the average.

South Africa has hitherto been the most important buyer of Nyasaland tobacco, but that market became so overloaded and depressed that the United Kingdom was tried with satisfactory results.

Owing to the prevailing low local prices in force last season, the acreage under cultivation has diminished somewhat, but now that the Imperial Tobacco Company of Great Britain and Ireland has established a buying factory near Blantyre, a considerable incentive to the production of Nyasaland tobacco

has been the result, and the acreage under this crop is rising steadily.

This factory is equipped with the best and latest machinery for dealing with the crop, and as the Company is paying cash for all purchases, planters get an immediate return, and are relieved of the technical work of sorting, grading, and packing.

The quality of the tobacco produced for the next few years will have a considerable influence on the future prosperity of the Protectorate, and it is anticipated that a large and lucrative tobacco-growing industry will be the result.

As regards the crop which is now being picked, the quality of the leaf is much superior to that of last year owing to a good rainy season, and a crop of 400 tons is estimated. There are 119 barns available for curing.

The following table shows the acreage and export for the last five years, the export value being fixed at 4*d.* per lb.

Year.	Total Acreage under Cultivation.	Crop exported at 31st March of each year.	Valued at
			£
1904	944	28,914	481
1905	421	56,826	947
1906	955	198,994	3,317
1907	2,330	413,316	6,889
1908	1,843	554,395	9,239

Cotton (European Cultivation).

12. The following are the particulars of the European cotton industry for the past five years:—

Year.	Total Acreage under European Cultivation.	Crop exported to 31st March.	Export Valuation.
		lb.	£
1903-4	7,000	56,577	1,777
1904-5	21,900	285,185	5,914
1905-6	10,012	776,621	16,180
1906-7	7,017	526,119	15,345
1907-8	8,659	403,486	13,999

The results of the past year were poor both on the Highlands and on the lower levels. In the latter case the crops were affected by a drought in January, 1907, whilst the prolonged rainy season seriously interfered with the cropping of cotton

in the Highlands, only 180 tons of lint being exported, the quality of which was not up to the usual standard of Nyasaland cotton.

Cotton is now being thoroughly tested on 63 estates, both in the Highlands and on the river levels. The approximate acreage in the two regions is 3,200 in the Highlands, and 5,500 on the lower levels, and as they are quite distinct for agricultural purposes, they will be dealt with separately.

(a) *Highlands*.—The American variety is grown successfully. The yield is still low, as the average per acre is only from 120 to 130 lbs., but with cheap labour this crop is a commercial success.

More attention is being given to increasing the yield and raising the quality of the product by careful seed selection, manuring, and good cultivation.

(b) *Lower Levels*.—The Egyptian variety is grown in the Shire river districts, and on Lake Nyasa, but the results so far have not been altogether encouraging. The quality of the produce is excellent, and as much as 147 lbs. per acre have been cropped in good years.

Could this figure be maintained everything would be well, but the Egyptian plant is very susceptible to bacterial blight or angular leaf spot, against which no methods at present known to science are of the least avail as a direct remedy. Preventive methods only can be practised, and if these are persisted in it is hoped that the plant may eventually become so thoroughly acclimatised that it will be enabled to withstand the very trying conditions which sometimes prevail in these districts. Climatic causes are entirely responsible for this as far as is at present known. The yield is thus reduced to 60 or 70 lbs. per acre, and the quality leaves much to be desired, but with careful expenditure and a fairly large acreage under cultivation, no loss need be incurred.

Insect pests have been far less in evidence than usual. The facilities for ginning and baling are still poor, whilst the cost— $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.—is too high to give the small producer a fair chance.

The industry can now be confidently stated to be on a sound commercial basis and thoroughly established, and the prospects of the crop now being picked are favourable in the extreme.

Native-grown Cotton.

Last season's native crop amounted to $24\frac{1}{2}$ tons, or approximately one-third of that produced in the two previous years. Each district has produced much less, the fall being most noticeable in Mlanje, whilst the Lower Shire district has taken the premier position for the year.

The season was extremely bad for cotton, and the January drought affected most seriously those districts where native

production was the heaviest. A famine appeared imminent, and cultivators applied the whole of their energies to food crops so that cotton was for the time neglected.

The present native cotton crop, however, promises to be the largest yet produced. There has been a big demand for seed, and 17 tons have been distributed free. The natives of the Lower Shire district are evincing some eagerness, and the Resident has registered over 1,800 plots of from half to one acre under native cultivation, and a crop of 200 tons of cotton in the seed is expected from this district alone.

The native gardens throughout the Protectorate convey the impression that natives are taking up cotton seriously, keeping them free from weeds, and taking care of the product when picked.

The seed distributed was all locally-grown, and to some extent acclimatised. American only was sent into the Highlands, and Egyptian to the lower levels.

The planting season was good and the results this year will, it is hoped, be highly satisfactory to the growers. A small village near Fort Lister has already received over £6 for its crop, and has more cotton to pick. This cotton was a good sample, and delivered in clean condition, so that the European buyer felt highly satisfied with it.

The industry is still being encouraged under considerable disadvantages as compared with other parts of Africa, but it is anticipated that this season will see cotton-growing firmly established amongst the natives of the Protectorate.

Small cotton gardens have been maintained under the supervision of the Residents at Port Herald, Chikwawa, Neno, Liwonde, Ncheu, Lilongwe, Dowa, Dedza, Chintechi, and Karonga.

Tea.

13. The cultivation of this product is still confined to the Mlanje district, where the soils and climate are well suited to its growth.

There are now 516 acres under tea, and this is being increased yearly. The crop for 1907-8 is stated to have been 2½ tons, and 9½ tons are estimated for the present year. Much of the tea at present produced is consumed in the country. Tea cultivation is not taken up with eagerness by planters, as a period of five or six years has to elapse before any return is made on the capital expended.

It is well known that the quality of tea improves as the bush matures, and those who tasted the locally-grown and manufactured article three years ago, now report that a great improvement has taken place in the quality. Tea unfortunately requires a good deal of capital, but it is understood that it can be produced in this country at a cheaper rate than is possible

in India or Ceylon. As soon, therefore, as Nyasaland tea obtains a footing on the London market, it should draw attention to this country as a possible field for the investment of capital.

A small plot has been planted up with tea in the experimental gardens at Zomba, with a view to ascertaining whether this product can be successfully grown in the Zomba district. The plants were put out in December, and so far have made excellent growth.

Rubber.

14. Although the export of cultivated rubber at present is by no means considerable, the acreage which is being brought under this product is increasing. Plantations have been established in nearly every district of the Highlands, the variety chiefly favoured being Ceara (*Manihot Glaziovii*). The growth of the young plant is remarkable, and in three years good stout trees are obtained; the oldest plantations of any considerable size are now about three and a half years old, and as tapping usually commences in the fifth year, the whole cultivation will soon be put to the proof. The main difficulty with this variety is the extraction of the rubber, but as the plant is now being experimented with by rubber experts all over the world, it may be assumed that the problem of extraction will soon be satisfactorily solved. In this country there is no doubt that the plant has found a congenial home, and as it produces excellent rubber—samples having been highly reported on in the London market—the future of the industry seems good, provided that the present low prices for this product are not permanent.

During the past year 1,119 lbs. of rubber produced on plantations was exported as against 972 lbs. in 1906-7, and 523 lbs. in 1905-6.

Acreage under Cultivation.

District	Variety.	Acres planted.
Lower Shire	Ceara	20
West Shire	„	52½
Blantyre	„	965½
„	Castilloa	25
Mlanje	Ceara	62
Zomba	„	637
Chikala	„	280
Upper Shire	„	124
West Nyasa	Funtumia	1
„	Ceara	3
„	Castilloa	25
„	Para	124
„	Landolphia	Large acreage
North Nyasa	Ceara	100

The total export of uncultivated rubber during 1907-8 was 15,533 lbs., valued at £3,301.

One hundred plants of *Funtumia elastica* (Lagos rubber), raised from seed received from Uganda, were planted out in the Botanical Gardens at Zomba during the rains. A number of *Funtumia* plants were also distributed to planters in various parts of the Protectorate for trial on their estates.

Fibres.

15. Ramie (*Boehmeria nivea*). Cultural experiments conducted with this fibre during the year have shown that the plant is unsuitable for successful cultivation in this country. The Ramie plot in the experimental garden, although irrigated and well cultivated during the year, produced only two crops of stems during the past season, the average length of the stems of the first crop being about three feet only. The second crop was not reaped, as the stems attained a height of about two and a half feet only. Several planters have also been experimenting with Ramie during the past two or three years, but without success. The plants are exceedingly easy of cultivation, but in order to produce abundant and frequent crops of stems of good length (four to five feet) the climate must be moist and stimulating.

Sisal Hemp (*Agave rigida*, var. *sisalana*). Many of the planters are now devoting a certain amount of attention to the cultivation of this valuable fibre, and during the past year about 30,000 young plants were sent out by the Forestry and Botanical Department, the demand being far in excess of the supply. Next planting season a large number of plants will be available for distribution.

From experiments conducted, it was found that 50 leaves of sisal yielded just over 3 lbs. of clean fibre. This, it may be stated, compares favourably with the average yield from sisal plantations in Yucatan, where the quantity of fibre obtained from 1,000 leaves is said to be from 50 to 70 lbs., the annual yield of clean fibre per acre varying from 10 to 15 cwts., according to the number of plants.

Mauritius Hemp (*Furcroea gigantea*). The cultivation of this fibre is also being taken up by several planters in conjunction with sisal. During the past season, however, few applications were made for *Furcroea* plants, as large quantities of these are now easily obtainable from growers in the country.

With suitable machinery to treat the leaves of sisal and Mauritius hemp, there seems to be no reason why an important fibre industry should not be established in Nyasaland, especially in the Blantyre and Lower Shire districts, seeing that the profits on a sisal plantation of 1,000 acres or so in German East Africa (where labour is certainly not plentiful and costs three times as much as it does in Nyasaland) are said to be as high as 40 per cent.

Bowstring Hemp (*Sansevierias*). Although several species of this indigenous fibre plant are found growing in abundance in various parts of the Protectorate, its cultivation has not yet been attempted by planters, as the growth of the plant is though to be much too slow for remunerative cultivation, in this country.

Ginger.

16. This plant is being extensively propagated and the ginger plot in the experimental garden now contains 2,000 strong plants, all of which have been derived from two small plants of ginger received from Kew in 1901.

Until a fairly large stock of plants is available to work on, the propagation of ginger is a very slow process, as the method employed is by division of the roots or rhizomes. During the ensuing year about 1,000 plants will be available for distribution.

This product will no doubt be taken up by planters so soon as plants are available for the purpose, as it is well suited for cultivation as a by-product. Well-prepared ginger fetches from 50s. to 70s. per cwt. in the home market.

AFFORESTATION.

17. *Zomba*.—During the past rainy season an area of about 35 acres on the Zomba mountain plateau was planted up with Mlanje cypress.

The aggregate area of the cypress plantations now established on the plateau and on the slopes of Zomba mountain is approximately 100 acres.

As these cypress plantations are being formed with the object of producing high-class timber (*i.e.*, tall, straight poles, free of branches and non-tapering), and as such timber can be produced only by dense planting, the plants are being put out at the rate of about 3,500 to the acre.

10,000 eucalyptus trees were planted out in December, and on the whole the plants have made a good stand, and are now growing well.

Blantyre.—About 17,000 eucalyptus, raised in the nursery at Blantyre during the year, were planted out on Crown land at Soche.

A large quantity of mbawa (mahogany) seed has been sown in a nursery at Soche with the object of raising plants for the planting programme of 1908-9.

Mlanje.—The forestry work at Mlanje during the year was confined to timber cutting and the protection of the cypress forests from fires. The sawing of timber was carried on during the dry months only (*i.e.*, April to October inclusive); the quantity of wood sawn for Government Departments during that period was 78,500 lineal feet, of various dimensions.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

18. The following Ordinances have been enacted during the year (1st April, 1907, to 31st March, 1908):—

- (1) "The Fugitive Criminals Surrender Ordinance, 1907," No. 2 of 1907.
- (2) "The British Central Africa Appropriation Ordinance, 1907," No. 3 of 1907.
- (3) "The Acquisition of Land for Public Purposes Ordinance, 1907," No. 4 of 1907.
- (4) "The Native Hut Tax Amendment Ordinance, 1907," No. 5 of 1907.
- (5) "The Fugitive Criminals Surrender Amendment Ordinance, 1907," No. 6 of 1907.
- (6) "The Railway Ordinance, 1907," No. 7 of 1907.

The Appropriation Ordinance, No. 1 of 1907, was repealed and replaced by "The British Central Africa Appropriation Ordinance, 1907." No Ordinances were enacted during the first three months of 1908.

V.—EDUCATION.

19. There are no Government schools in the Protectorate, native education being in the hands of the missionary societies established in various districts.

During the past year Government made a grant of £1,000 in aid of primary education, to be allocated under certain conditions to those societies desirous of participating.

There are 839 schools in the Protectorate, the majority of which are "village schools" (*i.e.*, schools in charge of native teachers, superintended by Europeans from the headquarters of the missions) at which 61,712 natives receive instruction, the average attendance being 39,523.

There are 44 Europeans engaged in literary education and 31 in technical.

As an instance of the advance made in primary education it may be stated that during the year circulars in the various vernaculars dealing with questions needing the attention and support of the natives, such as cotton cultivation, locust destruction, &c., have been distributed by Residents throughout the villages in the Protectorate, and very little difficulty is now

experienced by the inhabitants in reading and understanding the directions given.

The following table details the work of each Society :—

	No. of schools.	No. of scholars on roll and in average attendance.				Number of Europeans engaged in education.		Amount of Government grant in aid.
		No. on roll.		Average No. in attendance.		Literary.	Technical.	
		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.			
Universities Mission to Central Africa.	59	2,211	1,259	1,562	762	10	11	£ Nil*
Dutch Reformed Church Mission.	155	8,599	6,981	5,038	4,180	10	5	125
Church of Scotland Mission.	89	2,351	848	1,728	980	4	9	275
Livingstonia Mission ..	402	19,208	9,604	12,166	6,088	8	5	275
Nyasa Industrial Mission	11	547	80	305	45	3	—	26
Zambesi Industrial Mission.	64	2,468	1,424	1,771	955	3	1	125
White Fathers	33	2,162	1,572	1,727	1,186	—	—	125
Baptist Industrial Mission.	20		Not obtainable			4	—	25
South Africa General Mission.	3		Not obtainable.			2	—	25
Marist Fathers	3	1,200	900	950	700	—	—	Nil*
Total	839	39,244	22,468	25,247	14,276	44	31	1,000

* The Universities Mission and the Marist Fathers Mission decided not to participate in the 1907-8 grant.

Native artisans are trained in the industrial schools attached to the headquarters of most of the Missions, where carpentering, printing, bookbinding, agriculture, horticulture, and other practical trades are taught, much to the benefit of local industries.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

20. In the year 1907-8, 2,014 offences were reported as against 1,818 in 1906-7. As usual the commonest causes of misbehaviour were matrimonial disputes, assault, and larceny. In the larger European settlements there have been a considerable number of burglaries, some of a very audacious character. In no instance, however, has any considerable sum of money or much valuable property been taken.

Eighty-three cases were sent up to the High Court for confirmation as against 52 in 1906-7. In 75 instances the

sentences of the subordinate Courts were confirmed, and in eight modified. The 83 cases are made up as follows :—

Murder	...	...	...	...	...	4
Manslaughter	...	...	...	...	...	29
Attempt to murder	...	...	...	...	...	3
Child murder...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rape	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other offences against the person	...	...	...	...	...	5
Robbery with violence	...	...	...	...	...	6
Malicious injury to property	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other offences against property	...	...	...	...	...	19
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	9
						—
						83
						—

As heretofore, manslaughter cases form a large proportion of the total. There were, however, three clear cases of murder, in which no circumstances could be found in mitigation of the extreme penalty.

The question of the administration of corporal punishment to natives remained in abeyance pending the first session of the Legislative Council, and has only recently been dealt with by the Council. The "Punishments Ordinance," which concerns this most important question has, however, only passed through the Legislative Council after the expiration of the year under review, and therefore does not come within the scope of this report. It suffices to say that the need for further legislation on this question was universally recognised, and the draft Ordinance received very careful consideration.

The most important Ordinance from the magistrates' point of view published in the past year was "The Hut Tax Amendment Ordinance," which authorises imprisonment upon insufficient distress for non-payment of hut tax. This amendment of the law was much needed.

Twenty-three estates of deceased persons have been wound-up during the year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

21. The European population is returned at 587, as against 583, 608, and 597 in the three preceding years.

22. The Asiatic population has remained practically stationary, viz., 515.

23. The native population is estimated at 947,168, an increase of 19,813, due chiefly to continued immigration from neighbouring territories, and to more accurate statistics being available.

24. Thirteen European deaths were registered during the year, giving a death-rate of 22·1 per 1,000.

25. The European birth-rate shows a decrease from 32·59 per 1,000 to 25·55, 15 births having been registered.

26. Six European marriages were celebrated as against seven during 1906-7.

VIII.—POSTAL.

GENERAL REMARKS.

27. The unit of weight on all letter correspondence was raised from $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to 1 oz., and sample post rates were lowered from 4d. per 4 oz. to 1d. per 4 oz.

Owing to the German East Africa Line of steamers having reduced the sailings of their fast boats to once every three weeks, it was found necessary to arrange for some other route for correspondence addressed to places abroad. About the middle of June, therefore, an arrangement was put in force for the despatch of mails for London via Beira and Salisbury, catching the Union Castle boats at Cape Town.

A further improvement has been made in the case of correspondence for South Africa, which now goes via Beira or Delagoa Bay in a direct bag to Johannesburg, which last office acts as distributing agent.

On 1st of April a direct money order exchange with Zanzibar was started.

A new issue of postage stamps has been arranged for in consequence of the change of name of the Protectorate to "Nyasaland." A $\frac{1}{2}$ d. issue has been ordered to provide for the reduced rate to be charged on newspapers, and a new 3d. value will take the place of the old 2d. stamp.

Money Orders.

28. The value of money orders issued in the Protectorate was £12,627 as against £13,253 last year.

Imperial Exchanges.

29. The transactions with these orders have been practically doubled within the year, the sales being £4,959 and payments £1,399 as against £2,879 and £664 respectively during 1906-7.

Parcel Post.

30. Goods to the value of £3,914 were imported by parcel post as against £3,647 last year.

Statistics.

31. The total number of postal articles dealt with was 1,101,917 as compared with 612,284 last year :—

	1906-7.	1907-8.
Letters	434,126	866,632
Post cards	19,898	31,888
Newspapers	98,168	155,468
Book packets, &c. ...	55,211	42,644
Parcels	4,805	5,078
Closed bags	76	207
	612,284	1,101,917

IX.—MILITARY.

DISTRIBUTION AND MOVEMENT OF TROOPS.

32. The distribution was the same as in the previous year (1906-7) namely :—

Zomba.—Indian contingent and 2 Companies 2nd Battalion King's African Rifles.
Fort Manning.—1 Company 2nd Battalion King's African Rifles.
Fort Mlangeni.— $\frac{1}{2}$ Company 2nd Battalion King's African Rifles.
Fort Mangoche.— $\frac{1}{2}$ Company 2nd Battalion King's African Rifles.

The troops, with the exception of the Indian contingent, exchanged stations in May, 1907, every company being moved at that time. In March, 1908, the African troops were withdrawn to Zomba prior to the departure of the 2nd Battalion to British East Africa; they were relieved at the out-stations by detachments of the Indian contingent, which will garrison these posts until the 1st Battalion takes them over in June or July.

Training.

33. The Zomba garrison went into camp by companies for 14 days' field training in August and September, 1907. The results of the annual musketry course were satisfactory and show an improvement upon those of previous years, although it is somewhat difficult to compare them owing to an alteration in the course.

Figure of Merit—Indian contingent ...	63
	17
“ ” 2nd Battalion King's	109
African Rifles ..	81

Band.

34. The military band has made good progress and has played regularly in public at Zomba and has paid occasional visits to Blantyre.

Health.

35. The general health of the troops has been very good ; that of the Indian contingent being exceptionally satisfactory. A serious outbreak of small-pox took place at Mangoché in March, 1908, and over 60 cases occurred ; several women and children died of this disease, but there were no deaths amongst the troops ; the epidemic has now ceased.

Statistical Information.

—	British Officers.	Native Officers.	Rank and File.	Band.	Hospital Assistants.	Indian Clerks.	Indian Followers.
Indian contingent.	2	2	98	—	1	1	14
2nd K.A.R....	12	—	400	30	3	3	—

Enlistments, 21 ; discharges, 16 ; desertions, 6 ; death, 1.

36. Distribution by tribes including the band :—

Yao and kindred tribes	...	...	...	209
Awemba	...	...	...	100
Angoni...	...	...	...	96
Atonga and kindred tribes	...	...	...	21

Volunteer Reserve.

37. The strength of the reserve has been well maintained, and at the end of the financial year numbered 122, made up as follows :—

Zomba	...	...	38
Blantyre	...	...	39
Fort Johnston	...	...	22
Chiromo	...	...	23
			122

The corps was re-armed with the new short-barrel magazine rifle, and a higher shooting standard during 1908-9 is anticipated.

Each corps held monthly shooting meetings and competitions and, in addition, the ranges were available for practice every week.

The need for the revision of the existing Regulations of 1901 has been apparent for some time, and a Volunteer Ordinance, to meet the altered conditions, is now under consideration.

X.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

38. General conditions have been satisfactory. The native population is orderly and contented. The food supply for the coming year is practically assured, and health conditions have been good, except for outbreaks of small-pox, which have been unusually virulent, but have been kept well in hand.

A certain amount of unrest was caused during the early part of the year, owing to the appearance of a "prophetess," a Chikunda woman known as "Chanjiri," who promulgated a doctrine to the effect that all Europeans would leave the country during the year, and that no hut tax need be paid to the British Government, but that she would receive tribute instead. Owing to Chanjiri having removed from British to Portuguese control it was somewhat difficult to deal with her, and the credulity of the native is such that many returned to their villages and abandoned their work to await the fulfilment of the prophecies and consequent exodus of Europeans which was to follow. Many also visited her with tribute, and returned with promises of abundant harvests, and stories as to the downfall of the dominant race. No active resistance resulted from the propaganda, but the teaching seriously affected native revenue for a time, the May hut tax returns showing a shortage of over £3,000 as compared with the previous year. The active steps taken by the Residents of districts concerned, however, in personally visiting the villages affected, and tactfully dealing with the passive resistance which followed, and the subsequent non-fulfilment of the prophecies, finally overcame the results of the propaganda, and the unrest caused thereby may be said to have disappeared.

Hut Tax.

39. A satisfactory increase is shown on last year's total, the aggregate being £36,605 as against £35,619 for the preceding year, an increase of £986.

Hut tax revenue for the past five years is as follows:—

				£
1903-4	...	...	...	26,276
1904-5	...	...	...	29,024
1905-6	...	...	...	31,074
1906-7	...	...	...	35,619
1907-8	...	...	...	36,605

Labour.

40. The local labour supply has been greater than in any previous year, and even during the rains a steady supply was maintained. No further recruitment of labour for the Transvaal by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association took place during the year. Of the 500 Nyasaland natives recruited at the close of 1906, 452 returned to the Protectorate in February, 1908, having worked their allotted time; 14 were returned as unfitted for mining work on arrival, and 34 died, showing a death-rate of 68 per thousand per annum.

1,400 natives were, as an experiment, allowed to proceed to the Mopea sugar works on the Zambesi, with satisfactory results—this work being extremely popular owing to the short time taken in travelling, the suitable climate, and the considerate treatment received.

Arrangements were made towards the close of the financial year for an experimental gang of 1,000 men to proceed to Southern Rhodesia, under the auspices of the Southern Rhodesia Government, for mining work.

The system of deferred half-pay is applied in all cases, under which natives receive their arrears of pay on return to Blantyre or Zomba.

The independent and uncontrolled exodus of natives to Southern Rhodesia and other parts of South Africa in search of comparatively highly-paid work still continues, and it is estimated that upwards of 18,000 men (in addition to those despatched under Government auspices) have thus left the Protectorate during the year. 1,239 purchased passes were issued on application and 302 issued free, but by far the greater number of natives went independently without passes, and of these no exact records exist. Many of them had previously attempted to obtain work within the Protectorate, but as the local demand is limited, were impelled south in order to earn money to meet their wants.

Communications are received from time to time from Native Commissioners in Southern Rhodesia and Government officials in other parts of South Africa, remitting sums to the relatives of Nyasaland natives, or in connection with estates of deceased labourers, but of the majority there is little or no trace. Much of this labour might be recruited for the Transvaal, but as this

market is now closed, and the local demand for labour is at present far less than the supply, natives are forced to seek their own work, often having to walk hundreds of miles and suffer great hardships on their journeys.

Experience points to the advisability of a resumption of a Government-controlled system under which natives desiring to go south for work, whether to Rhodesia or the Transvaal Colony, can do so under definite conditions, and with greater ease, and in more comfort than is at present the case.

XI.—GENERAL.

GAME.

41. The total number of head killed during the year under licence, according to the returns made by licence holders, was 2,261, made up as follows :—Elephants, 24 ; rhinoceroses, 2 ; hippopotami, 31 ; zebra, 52 ; sable and roan, 132 ; kudu, 44 ; serval, 2 ; cheetah, 2 ; smaller monkeys, 2 ; marabouts, 8 ; egrets, 15 ; oribi, 40 ; wild pig, 44 ; jackal, 2 ; warthog, 112 ; bush pig, 57 ; hartebeeste, 214 ; impala, 121 ; reedbuck, 374 ; duiker, 151 ; klipspringer, 38 ; steinbuck, 58 ; waterbuck, 334 ; bushbuck, 303 ; puku, 16 ; inyala, 14.

Under special permits granted by the Governor under the "Game Regulations, 1902," 19 eland and seven buffalo were killed. Twelve lions, 19 leopards, and 3 hyænas were also returned as killed by licence holders.

The following licences were issued :—

	£
Licence "A"	25 20
" "B"	4 84
" "C"	2 94
Native licence	38
	236

LIVE STOCK.

42. No serious epidemics occurred during the year, although certain districts had to be closed for short periods to the movement of cattle, owing to local cattle sickness. Owners of large herds are still holding their stock in the hope of a market nearer than Southern Rhodesia and easier of access.

NYASALAND PROTECTORATE



Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1908.

The total number of European- and native-owned live stock is as follows :—

—			European.	Native.
				(Approximate.)
Cattle ...	...		10,653	40,996
Sheep ...	...		2,010	14,724
Goats ...	...		1,060	92,053
Pigs ...	...		426	19,515

Large numbers of native-owned sheep and goats have been sold during the year.

RAILWAY.

43. Progress has been made during the year. Earthworks were sufficiently completed for present use from mile 74 to Blantyre, with the exception of gaps opposite the temporary deviations on which the track is laid. Temporary bridges have been built, and the line has been partially ballasted, and has been put into such condition as admits of its temporary use.

The labour supply for construction purposes was plentiful, the average number of labourers employed being 4,800.

Work on the Shire River Bridge was commenced in October, 1907, but owing to the rains little progress was possible until March.

I have, &c.,

H. R. WALLIS,

Acting Deputy Governor.

Zomba,

9th July, 1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.						
No.	Colony, &c.					Year.
540	Straits Settlements	...	...	...	...	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	...	...	...	...	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
543	Bahamas	...	...	...	...	"
544	Barbados	...	...	...	...	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago	...	...	...	...	"
546	Grenada	...	...	...	...	"
547	Mauritius	...	...	...	...	1906
548	Fiji	...	...	...	...	"
549	Jamaica	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
550	British Guiana	...	...	...	...	"
551	Northern Nigeria	...	...	...	...	"
552	British Honduras	...	...	...	...	1906
553	St. Lucia	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria	...	...	...	...	1906
555	St. Vincent	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
556	Basutoland	...	...	...	...	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	...	...	...	...	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	...	...	...	...	"
559	Swaziland	...	...	...	...	"
560	St. Helena	...	...	...	...	1907
561	Ceylon	...	...	...	...	"
562	Falkland Islands	...	...	...	...	"
563	Gibraltar	...	...	...	...	"
564	Ashanti	...	...	...	...	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	...	...	...	...	1907-1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	1907
567	Seychelles	...	...	...	...	"
568	Bermuda	...	...	...	...	"
569	Wei-hai-wei	...	...	...	...	"
570	Hong Kong	...	...	...	...	"
571	Malta	...	...	...	...	1907-1908
572	British Honduras	...	...	...	...	1907
573	Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.			
No.	Colony, &c.		Subject.
44	East Africa Protectorate	...	Survey Department.
45	Do. do.	...	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria	...	Mineral Survey, (1904-5).
47	Do. do.	...	Do. (1905-6).
48	Nyasaland Protectorate	...	Do.
49	East Africa Protectorate	...	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c....	...	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	...	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	...	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	...	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907-8.
54	Newfoundland	...	Micmac Indians.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 560.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 526.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June, 1908.



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No. 560.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 526.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
13th March, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book, together with my Annual Report thereon for the year 1907.

I have, &c.,

H. L. GALLWEY,
Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine,
K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1907.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial condition of the Colony at the beginning of 1907 and the outlook ahead were such as to cause grave concern and to make it imperative that every effort should be made to adjust the finances to the altered circumstances in which the Colony found itself. To cut down the annual expenditure so as to fall within the revenue meant to seriously impair the efficiency of the public service. The only alternative was to make a determined effort to effect all possible economies so as to allow of ordinary efficiency being maintained. Even this involved the necessity of thorough reform and retrenchment in all branches of the administration. I do not propose to enumerate in this report the many economies effected. I will, however, content myself by mentioning the most important retrenchment adopted and which came into force on the 1st January of the year under review, namely:—a reduction, varying from 10 per cent. to 3 per cent., in the salaries of all permanent officials, from the Governor downwards. In addition to a 10 per cent. reduction in his salary the Table Allowance of £200 drawn by the Governor was abolished. That a determined effort was made to meet the altered financial condition of the Colony is plainly illustrated by the fact that the actual excess of expenditure over revenue for the year under review was only £850, whereas the annual estimate as submitted prior to the rigorous cutting down of expenditure showed a deficit on the year's transaction of £3,130, in spite of careful economy having been exercised when preparing the estimate. The reductions in pensionable officials' salaries alone amounted to £777, which reductions were the only alternative to reducing the staff by enforced retirements. Great credit is due to all officials for the loyal spirit in which they accepted the sacrifice they were called upon to make.

(A.) REVENUE.

During the year under review a total revenue of £7,207 8s. 8d. was collected, being £767 13s. 8d. in excess of the estimate. As compared with the previous year the revenue showed a falling off of £1,681 6s. 2d.

The increase in revenue over the estimate was due to larger receipts, amounting to £300 odd, under "Customs" than was

anticipated; and under "Fines, Fees, and Reimbursements-in-aid" there was an excess of £351 odd, entirely owing to monies realized by the sale of old lead and other metals, the accumulation of years, and of a ship's cable which had lain on the wharf for a considerable time. The material named brought in a net profit of £367 odd. There were minor increases under all other heads excepting one, "Licences, &c.," which showed a small deficit of £8 16s. 9d. There were only three taverns open in Jamestown during the year as against five in 1906.

An improvement in the economic situation which set in during the last three or four months of the year accounted indirectly to some extent for the increased revenue.

Not included in the revenue was a sum of £329 7s. 4d. received from Jamestown householders during the year in repayments of principal and interest under the Drainage and Water Works Ordinances. The actual amounts due were: principal £550 0s. 7d., and interest, £106 9s. 11d.—thus showing that about 50 per cent. of the claims remained unpaid at the end of the year. The acute depression existing in Jamestown made it quite impossible for many householders to meet the Government's demands. Each case was treated on its merits, and in some cases it was not only necessary to carry the annual instalment forward but also to write off the interest. The burden of these water and drainage claims is a veritable incubus to the majority of the Jamestown community. It is difficult to see how many of the debtors can ever possibly hope to pay back the monies advanced to them. Two out of every three houses in Jamestown are mortgaged, which fact adds to the financial worries of the owners thereof, many of whom were out of work most of the year and many have large families to support.

The revenue was £849 11s. 9d. less than the expenditure, the smallest deficit in any one year during the last five years.

(B.) EXPENDITURE.

The year's expenditure amounted to £8,057 0s. 5d., being a saving on the estimate of £235 12s. 7d., and a decrease of £2,222 16s. 6d., as compared with the previous year.

The principal savings were:—(a) "Customs," £72 13s. 3d.; caused by the refund of wharfage on coal supplied to H.M.S. "Pelorus" on the last day of the year not being claimed within the year; (b) "Police," £38 4s. 3d.; very few special constables employed, and casual savings under several sub-heads; and (c) "Miscellaneous," £36 0s. 6d.; no shipping of specie by Government necessary. There were small savings under every head but one, namely, "Medical," where there was

an excess of £6 odd, due to the cost of drugs, &c., supplied to the Zulu prisoners, the Colony being reimbursed for same by the Natal Government.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

There was a surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st December, 1907, of £1,183 15s. 3*d.*, being a decrease of £1,164 5s. 2*d.*, as compared with the figures on the same date of the previous year.

Among the Colony's assets is the sum of £4,278 16s. 9*d.* due from householders under the Drainage and Water Works Ordinances. I fear very much that a large part of this amount will prove to be irrecoverable.

The most important asset is a sum of £20,516 9s. 6*d.* invested by the Colonial Government on behalf of the depositors in the Government Savings Bank. The market value of these investments on the 31st December, 1907, was £19,342 8s. 3*d.*

At the end of the year under review the Colony owed the Crown Agents for the Colonies the sum of £4,142 12s. 11*d.*, bearing interest at Bank rate. The amount named is only £326 15s. 10*d.* in excess of the debt owing to the Crown Agents on the 31st December, 1906, in spite of the year's expenditure having exceeded the revenue by £849 11s. 9*d.* The expenditure as estimated for 1908 has been cut down to below £8,000, and it is difficult to see how further retrenchments can well be made, and ordinary efficiency preserved, in order to keep the expenditure within the limits of the revenue, especially considering that the salaries of all permanent officials have already been reduced and current disbursements in every department have been cut down as far as is considered feasible. It is, however, satisfactory to note that signs of some prosperity returning to the Colony are not wanting, and the outlook for the coming year is decidedly brighter than was the case a year ago.

(D.) GRANTS.

In the revenue and expenditure returns are not included in the following Parliamentary grants allotted for special purposes during the year under review:—

(a.) £4,070, to establish the flax industry.

(b.) £300, for relief works.

Of the first grant the sum of £3,412 19s. 5*d.* was expended up to the 31st December, 1907. The whole of the £300 grant was expended early in the year in repairing the roads and wharf. The money was granted in the nick of time as the distress among the labouring classes had reached an acute stage by February of the year under review. It was an example of

the truth of the saying, *Bis dat quo cito dat*. There is no doubt that the grant coming when it did was more useful to the Government than a larger sum would have been later on, so grave was the situation at the time. The expenditure of the £300 was spread over about six or seven weeks, and not only relieved much distress but was the means of saving the roads of the Colony from suffering unduly from the unusually heavy summer rains.

There was a third grant allotted by His Majesty's Government towards the end of the year to provide for the laying of a new water main in the Longwood district. No expenditure, however, was incurred under this grant during the year under review.

His Majesty's Government also made a grant of £470 to the St. Helena Lace-making Association to enable that body to establish an industry in the Colony. £170 of the amount named was an actual grant, but £300 is on loan, to be paid back by degrees as the industry develops. The Association named is not a Colonial Government institution. The Government, however, advance the Association the necessary monies, within the limits of the grant, to cover its expenditure, recovering the monies as advanced from the Colonial Office. The Association has to furnish the Colonial Government with vouchers supporting expenditure in order that the Secretary of State for the Colonies can satisfy himself that the monies advanced by the Colonial Government are properly expended and accounted for.

(E.) CURRENCY.

At the beginning of the year it was estimated that £5,000 was the cash circulation of the Colony. The Eastern Telegraph Company imported £1,250 during the year, whilst £2,917 was exported during the same period. The cash circulation must considerably increase now that the flax industry is established owing to the large disbursements made by the Government mill.

Bills on the Crown Agents were issued to the Post Office Department and to the public to the value of £6,146 16s. 6d. during the year under review, being a decrease of no less than £9,928 8s. 6d., as compared with 1906. No commissions were received on those bills as there is practically only one merchant who requires them, and rather than consent to pay any commission he prefers to ship his specie home in spite of the extra expense incurred thereby. In any case, the Government can only afford to issue bills when they require cash to meet current expenditure, and so there are arguments in favour of the bills being issued free of commission.

In addition to remittances by means of specie and bills of exchange, the public remitted the sum of £3,809 3s. 10½*d.* to the United Kingdom through the Post Office, being £1,145 1s. 11½*d.* less than in 1906. Other particulars as to remittances through the Post Office are dealt with under the head of Postal Services.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) TRADE.

The year under review is for many reasons a very interesting one as regards Customs statistics from the fact that the Island was left to its own resources, the garrison having been withdrawn in the previous year.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue amounted to £3,300 9s. 11*d.* (£300 9s. 11*d.* in excess of the estimate), being £1,564 3s. 9*d.* less than in 1906. This decrease is accounted for under every head as shown in the comparative statement O*, attached to this report, and as also hereunder specified.

“Permits.”—Due to the fact that there were a smaller number of importers and also very few ships taking dutiable goods as stores. The deficit, however, under this head was only £4 16s.

“Wharfage.”—Decrease £531 9s. 1*d.* Chiefly owing to His Majesty’s ships taking less coal and patent fuel in 1907 than in 1906, and generally to the withdrawal of the garrison. Import of coal alone showed a deficit of £351 6s. Coal and patent fuel imported in 1907 was 1,851 tons, as against 4,193 tons in 1906.

“Duty.”—Decrease £713 17s. 5*d.* The working classes having only casual employment it was difficult for them to get the necessities of life, let alone beer and such luxuries. The most marked decrease is under beer:—78 hogsheads and 259 dozen bottles being imported during the year, as against 358 hogsheads and 743 dozen bottles in 1906. The absence of a garrison chiefly accounts for this drop. There was also a falling off in the importation as compared with 1906 of 553 gallons spirits, 1,081 gallons wine, and 660 lbs. tobacco.

* Not printed.

“Tonnage Dues.”—Decrease £178 16s. The explanation given under “Wharfage” applies to this head also, £117 2s. alone being accounted for by loss in tonnage of coal and patent fuel as compared with 1906.

“Warehouse Rent.”—Decrease £9 2s. 9d. There being fewer packages cleared for home consumption, consequently a loss resulted under this head. There were less dutiable goods in bond at the end of 1907 than at any previous period.

“Water.”—Decrease £126 2s. 6d. Two reasons account for this: first—there were very few ships requiring water, especially His Majesty’s Navy; and secondly—the price charged for water was reduced in July of the year under review from 5s. to 2s. a ton in the case of merchant shipping and from 2s. 6d. to 2s. a ton for His Majesty’s ships.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £633 5s. 9d., being £249 8s. 8d. less than in 1906. £51 odd of this decrease is covered by reductions in the salaries of officials. £233 14s. was refunded to the Admiralty coal contractors for coal and patent fuel supplied to His Majesty’s ships during the year under review. This amount is £138 16s. less than in the previous year.

Imports.

The general cargo imported during the year amounted to 3,448 tons, as against 6,113 tons in 1906. The total value of imports was £35,614 (including £1,250 specie), being £5,777 less than in the previous year. The value of goods in some instances exceeded the figures of the previous year. Drapery and dry-goods were valued at £3,312, as against £2,885 in 1906. This increase is chiefly accountable to the 100 men who emigrated to Namaqualand spending their advance money, and in several instances withdrawing their savings from the bank to purchase clothing outfits. The value of grain, seed, and oil cake imported amounted to £1,617, as against £934 in 1906. It is more than probable that a large quantity of these goods is still on hand, pointing to a reduction in imports thereof in the coming year. Machinery imported was valued at £1,217, as compared with £533 in the previous year. This increase was due to the comparatively large imports of phormium mill machinery by the Colonial Government.

£1,250 specie was imported during the year under review owing to the scarcity of coin in the Island at one particular period of the year. Owing to the Colonial Government not being in a position, as they were when troops were stationed in

the Colony, to grant bills of exchange to the merchants whenever required by the latter, those merchants had to export specie to England to meet their purchases in that country. This fact tended to reduce the amount of cash in circulation, and the importation of specie referred to was made by the Eastern Telegraph Company to pay the salaries of its officials. The large amount of money required by the Colonial Government to establish the phormium industry in the Island during the last four months of the year prevented a continuance of any considerable export of specie during that period as the Colonial Government was in a position to issue bills of exchange to the merchants in return for cash.

The chief decreases under imports as compared with 1906 were:—beer, £1,277; coal and patent fuel, £4,798; oilman's stores, £1,146; and rice, £492.

The chief imports were as follows:—

Articles.	1907.	1906.
	£	£
Beef and pork	1,162	1,203
Beer	644	1,921
Butter	1,454	1,477
Cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco	820	810
Chemicals, drugs, &c	508	640
Coal and patent fuel	3,332	8,130
Drapery and dry-goods	3,312	2,885
Flour	1,930	1,898
Grain, seed, and oilcake	1,617	934
Hardware, metals, &c.	684	758
Leather, boots, &c.	790	764
Machinery	1,217	533
Oil, paraffin	670	750
Oilman's stores	6,692	7,838
Rice	2,833	3,325
Specie	1,250	—
Spirits	775	1,015
Stationery	494	400
Sugar	2,171	2,294
Sundries... ..	725	836
Tea	556	756
Wine	515	766

Exports.

The total value of exports was £4,704, including £2,917 specie, as against £9,252, including £8,815 specie, in 1906. Old metal to the value of £1,175 accounted, apart from specie, for most of the exports. In this year the first export, for many years, of phormium and aloe fibre (4 tons weight, valued at £103) took place. No export in phormium fibre was made by the Colonial Government as their mill only commenced work in

December of the year under review. The first shipment actually took place on January 5th, 1908.

(B.) AGRICULTURE, FORESTS, AND GARDENS.

The year under review was fairly satisfactory for agriculture, but on the whole was not so good as 1906. Potato crops were below the average, and yet the supply was well in excess of the demand. Four shipments of potatoes, amounting in all to 35 tons, were exported to the Cape, resulting in a net loss of £46 to the exporters. The duties levied on the shipments referred to amounted to £79. Consequently under former conditions there would have been a profit of £33 on the 35 tons, or roughly £1 a ton. Not a large profit, but quite sufficient in these hard times to make it worth while exporting the produce. That the potatoes were of the best quality is quite clear, as the commission merchants who sold the same reported as follows: "There is no doubt that the quality is excellent and that they will always command the best figure in the market." Grain crops were small during the year owing to want of rain in August and September. Cattle were not in as good condition as in 1906—the pasture lands being more overstocked than ever. This fact necessitated the killing of many calves at birth—a lamentable state of affairs. Sheep did well and dairy produce was equal to demand. No hay was made. The most serious drawback to farming in St. Helena is the small demand for cattle and the low value realized for the few animals sold. There is practically no sale for beef except at most unremunerative prices. Several stock owners hold lands on lease, which lands they have to retain until they get rid of their stock. Farming is therefore a very poor commercial business in St. Helena in these days. The stock owners petitioned His Majesty's Government during the year under review praying that if no market could be found for their surplus stock some compensation might be granted them. The petition failed, and the farmers' only chance now lies in the possibility of the Admiralty consenting to purchase cattle from St. Helena for the use of His Majesty's ships in South African waters. Even then, owing to the low price of beef in South Africa, the animals must be sold at starvation prices. The farmers have already intimated that they are prepared to accept 2½*d.* a pound live weight (equivalent to 4½*d.* a pound for beef) put on board at St. Helena. Failing the disposal of a large number of cattle there can only be one result. Many of the small owners have already had to dispose of their cattle in the local market at a price well below what it has cost them to raise those animals in order to meet pasturage and living expenses. They have been thus forced to sacrifice their capital which in many cases they have striven hard to obtain.

About 400 young trees were issued to landowners free of cost from the plantation nurseries during the year, and the same

number were planted out on Government lands. A considerable acreage of land was laid out in flax (*phormium tenax*). The planting of suckers was, however, chiefly confined to the two largest landowners, who between them laid down about 118,000 suckers covering about 110 acres. In addition to this, towards the end of the year, 32 landowners were granted a total sum of £451 to assist them in planting flax—the land to be planted being about 245 acres. The poorer owners of those referred to received wire and posts for fencing free of charge in addition to the money grant. Approximately, only about 30,000 suckers were laid down under the grant referred to by the 31st December, 1907. Some difficulty is being experienced by some owners in obtaining suckers for planting, as they (the suckers) only become available as the leaves are reaped for delivery to the Government mill; and in many cases the owners of the plants require those suckers to extend their own planting. It is plain that the only practical method of planting is by means of suckers. Efforts to grow the plant from seed failed utterly. The seed dealt with was brought from New Zealand by Mr. Fulton, the flax expert, and was laid down and treated strictly in accordance with his instructions. There is no doubt that at the best the raising of phormium plants from seed is a laborious process, and it would probably be at least seven years before the leaves were ready for reaping. The young plant is very delicate and requires careful rearing in its earlier stages. The seed was sown in June of the year under review, and took four months to come up, when it was entirely destroyed by grubs.

Mr. F. L. McDougall spent a month in the Colony towards the end of the year, during which time he laid out several experimental plots of the Island in black wattle seed. There are a considerable number of these wattle trees in St. Helena in a thriving condition. There is no doubt that the general climatic conditions of the Island are favourable to wattle growing. As a commercial success, however, such growing must be experimental for some years. Mr. McDougall left the Colony early in December with the idea of returning here a few months hence in order to satisfy himself as to the success or otherwise of his experimental plots.

The experiments made with ramie seed, referred to in last year's report, were not satisfactory, and the project was abandoned. There is nobody in St. Helena with any real knowledge in botanical matters, consequently any attempts made to grow new plants, &c., are carried out by mere amateurs. Even our gardeners, except where raising vegetable crops is concerned, are practically labourers with a slight knowledge of gardening thrown in, which knowledge they have very little opportunity of adding to.

The peach-fly has not yet been got rid of. I am afraid the apathy of the islanders will remain a bar to the pest referred

to being ever entirely eradicated from the Colony. A man may lose his entire crop of peaches, figs, &c., owing to the ravages of the pest. Among the poorer people this means a serious falling off in their small annual takings. It does not, however, by any means imply that the victim will move a hand to co-operate with the Government in its efforts to exterminate the fly. The indifference of St. Helenians in such matters is most marked. In June of the year under review the Government Entomologist (Mr. A. M. Lea) in Tasmania kindly informed me of a wonderful discovery which was accidentally made in Western Australia where it was found that pure kerosene oil attracted the peach-fly. Most satisfactory experiments had been made proving that the flies getting into the oil was in no way accidental, but that they were really attracted by it. I had printed copies of Mr. Lea's letter distributed to all fruit growers in St. Helena in the hope that the simple remedy recommended would be widely taken advantage of. The peach-fly season is now on (February, 1908), but I doubt if more than half-a-dozen growers will even take the trouble of trying the oil remedy. Under the Peach-fly Ordinance of 1904 the Governor of the Colony has power to appoint inspectors to enforce the terms of that Ordinance. Unfortunately the Colony's finances will not allow of paid inspectors being appointed. I am afraid that until paid supervision can be arranged for the peach-fly will continue to inconvenience a community who are either unable or unwilling to help themselves in a very simple matter. The only gardens in which the terms of the Peach-fly Ordinance are rigorously (or even to any great extent) observed are at Plantation and Maldivia Gardens, Jamestown.

The sale of fruit from Maldivia for the year amounted to £11 8s. 7d.; and the amount realized by the sale of trees from Government lands was £10 12s. 6d. The figures in 1906 were £32 4s. 4½d. and £17 5s. 9d. respectively.

(C.) INDUSTRIES.

Phormium.—St. Helena at last possesses a genuine industry of her own. On December 2nd of the year under review the Colonial Government phormium mill commenced regular work under most favourable circumstances. From 1875 to 1881 the Colonial and Foreign Fibre Company ran a mill in Jamestown at which they turned out both aloe (*Furcraea gigantea*) and flax (*phormium tenax*) fibre, chiefly the latter. The Company was not at all successful as a commercial undertaking. I fancy want of business methods chiefly attributed to this end. During the last four years the Company had no less than 16 machines at work, driven by two engines, and yet their largest output in one year was 615 bales, valued at

£1,867, a bale weighing 400 lbs. I do not forget that machinery for dealing with phormium leaves has greatly improved since those days. To return, however, to the present time. After the matter had been thoroughly gone into between the Colonial Office and this Government, and Professor Dunstan of the Imperial Institute having given his opinion in favour of the establishment of the New Zealand hemp industry in St. Helena, the New Zealand Government kindly lent the Colony the services of an expert to start the industry on a firm footing. Mr. C. J. Fulton was the official selected for the work. He arrived in the Colony in May, and, having reported favourably on the suitability of St. Helena for phormium growing, proceeded to London a month later in order to purchase the engine and other gear for the mill, the stripping and scutching machines having already been ordered from New Zealand. Mr. Fulton, accompanied by Mr. A. W. Hall (an experienced New Zealand phormium miller), returned to the Colony in August, and the work of erecting the mill commenced. Previous to proceeding to England Mr. Fulton selected a site for the mill at Longwood. This selection called forth much adverse criticism, but chiefly by persons quite unacquainted with the requirements aimed at. The only real objection to the site chosen was its distance away from the Western and Sandy Bay districts of the Island. No site, however, could possibly suit every grower equally. Consequently whatever site had been fixed upon would have found its adverse critics. The extraordinary topographical features of St. Helena make it a very difficult matter to find a suitable site for a phormium mill, for the working of which two essentials are imperative: firstly, you must have a good water supply from a stream that is not depended upon for drinking water by houses situated below the site of the mill, as the water passing through the mill becomes contaminated with vegetable matter. Secondly, a large drying or bleaching field is necessary, which should be as flat as possible. There are very few fields in St. Helena not on a slope. The site chosen possesses the two advantages named. In order, however, to obtain a regular and sufficient supply of water it was found necessary to construct a 30,000 gallon concrete tank in the mill field. This tank is fed from the water main; and now that the mill has been working for four months it has been found that the mill requirements are not inconveniencing the supply of water to the general public in the district concerned. I am quite satisfied that the site chosen is the best possible under the circumstances. In fact, except for its distance away from certain phormium plantations, it is an ideal site. The erection of the mill buildings—consisting of engine room; stripping, scutching, and baling sheds; fibre store; general store; office; and stable—was superintended by Honorary Major Michie, late R.E., whose knowledge in building matters was of great assistance to this Government. The buildings were completed

on the 30th November of the year under review, and milling was started two days later. The equipment of the mill consists of a 32-b.h.p. oil engine (burning about 18 gallons of oil a day), built by Messrs. R. Hornsby and Sons, driving one Booth-Macdonald stripping machine and one scutcher. At present 4 tons of leaves are dealt with daily, producing about $\frac{1}{2}$ ton of fibre and tow. The stripping machine is only worked for about five hours a day, the scutcher for the entire day, eight and a half hours. It is considered advisable at the start not to deal with more than the 4 tons of leaves a day until it is seen how long the leaves ready for reaping in the Island are likely to last. The great object is to ensure a sufficient supply of leaves to last out until the plants put down lately are ready for cutting, and so avoid shutting the mill down. I would mention that besides the manager and local manager (under instruction) the mill employs 16 hands, who earn a total weekly wage of over £12. The mill was formally opened by the Governor of the Colony on the 5th December, and it was very evident that many sceptics, who in the past had doubted the wisdom of establishing a phormium mill in the Island, had seen fit to change their minds. I have all along maintained that the industry, if properly managed, would prove a valuable asset to the community. I am more than ever of this opinion now that I have seen the mill at work for nearly four months. Provided the price of fibre in the London market does not fall to any very great extent the industry will flourish. To ensure success, however, the roads of the Colony must be kept in fair repair. A mistaken idea has somehow got abroad that donkey transport can keep the mill supplied with leaves. This is quite a wrong impression. Donkeys have not the necessary stamina. Carts alone, preferably drawn by bullocks, will keep the mill supplied with the required quantity of leaves. For this transport the roads must be kept in fair order. The hilly nature of the Island causes heavy rain to inflict abnormal damage to the roads in a very short space of time. The fact of the mill paying out about £3,000 locally every year, thus increasing the cash circulation by about 60 per cent., is in itself sufficient to show that the establishment of the industry must prove a great benefit to the community as a whole. For the first month the management of the mill was in Mr. Fulton's hands. That gentleman left the Colony on January 5th, 1908, handing over the management to Mr. A. W. Hall. The thanks of this Government and of the community generally are due to the New Zealand Government for having come to the Colony's assistance by sending an expert to establish the first genuine industry possessed by St. Helena. Needless to say the thanks of this Government were conveyed by me at the time to New Zealand Ministers through Lord Plunket, the Governor of the Dominion. Although no shipment of produce from the mill was made in 1907, owing to there being no steamer until January 5th of the following year by which to ship, it may not

be out of place to state in this report that by the 1st March, 1908, about 28 tons of fibre and tow had been shipped to England by the Government mill. The Union-Castle Steamship Company in order to encourage the industry very generously offered to carry the first 60 tons of fibre and tow to England freight free—an offer which was gladly accepted. It was an unfortunate coincidence that just about the time the Government mill started work the price of fibre in the London market fell by about £8 a ton. The funds necessary to establish the industry and place it on a sound footing were granted by Parliament, the actual grant voted being £4,070.

Besides the Government phormium mill there is another mill running, the property of Mr. T. L. M. Adams. This mill was established more than a year ago, but the output of fibre so far has been very small—3 or 4 tons in all. Mr. Adams works under great difficulties owing to a very inadequate water supply. On the other hand the transport of leaves costs him practically nothing as there is a very extensive flax plantation alongside the mill, which is situated 2,000 feet above the sea. Mr. Adams does his stripping only in the country, scutching being carried out in Jamestown.

Aloe.—Very large quantities of the so-called aloe, *furcraea gigantea*, are growing in St. Helena, the fibre of which is even more valuable if anything than phormium fibre. In the case of the former plant, however, it takes forty tons of leaves to produce one ton of fibre, as against one ton of fibre from eight or nine tons of phormium leaves. This fact is a serious obstacle to the *furcraea* being worked at a profit. It is plainly imperative that the milling plant should be erected close to where the leaves are growing. Such plant, too, must be portable and so allow of it being moved about from one plantation to another. Messrs. Deason Brothers shipped home a ton or so of aloe fibre during the year under review which realized £29 a ton in the London market. The industry, however, has not yet been taken up seriously by the firm named.

Lace-making.—A start was made during the year towards establishing the lace-making industry in St. Helena. An Association was formed under the presidentship of the Bishop of the Diocese with a Committee of ladies to assist his Lordship in the management of the Association. Two gentlemen were appointed honorary treasurers, and are responsible to the president in all matters of finance. Mrs. Ord Marshall, the honorary secretary of the League of Empire, kindly interested herself in the venture, and with the St. Helena Committee in London was in a great measure instrumental in obtaining through the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies a grant from the Imperial Treasury of £170 to cover the expenses of an expert for six months. The Treasury also loaned the Association the sum of £300 to cover working

expenses during the initial stages of the industry. The Association was fortunate in securing the services of Miss Penderel Moody as expert manageress for a period of seven months—August, 1907, to March, 1908. A most encouraging start has been made in the industry, which in addition to lace-making includes fine needlework. A considerable number of women and girls are employed, all of whom are most interested in their work. The employment of these women workers at a small wage has done not a little to relieve the depression among the poorer classes, especially in Jamestown, where the majority of the workers live. As regards the Treasury loan of £300, the idea is that it shall be repaid by small instalments from time to time as the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies shall direct. It was hoped that the fibre produced from young phormium leaves would prove suitable for spinning and weaving purposes, and so be used in the industry as a distinctly St. Helenian characteristic. All kinds of devices for cleaning the fibre were employed, but in no case were results really satisfactory. One or two experiments produced a suitable thread for spinning, but the labour and time involved was too costly to make the thread of any practical use. I referred the matter to Professor Dunstan for his advice, and he informed me that until considerable improvements are effected in the preparation of phormium fibre the material will not be suitable for lace-making.

Phosphates.—Great disappointment was caused during the year over the phosphate deposits (which had been pronounced by a manganese expert to be valuable) being pronounced as not worth working. Messrs. James Morrison and Company sent out an expert, who, after thoroughly going into the matter, reported unfavourably on the deposits. I am informed that the expert, Mr. Cannon, made no less than 400 different analyses of the deposits from the different localities. This fact should be sufficient to convince the most sceptical that the phosphates in question are not of sufficient commercial value to export. I still, however, cling to the belief that some day money will be made out of the discarded product.

(D.) SHIPPING.

The shipping returns for the year under review are very melancholy reading. Shipping is diminishing in ever increasing quantities. Only 57 ships called (that is, were boarded by the harbour master) during the year, being 29 less than in 1906. Thirty-nine of the ships were British. Among the ships were four British ships-of-war, including H.M.S. "Crescent" flying the flag of Vice-Admiral Sir John Durnford, K.C.B., D.S.O., who was on his way to England after handing over command of the South African Squadron to Vice-Admiral Sir Edmund Poë, K.C.V.O. The following table, covering the five years during which I have administered this Government,

shows that by degrees St. Helena is becoming of less importance to merchant shipping as time goes on:—

Year.		Number of ships that called.	Tonnage.
1903	...	125	250,226
1904	...	107	254,069
1905	...	99	242,141
1906	...	86	215,217
1907	...	57	149,182

Coupled with the general decrease in shipping, the continual decrease in the arrivals of British sailing vessels is very marked. The falling off by 33 per cent. of vessels calling in 1907, as compared with 1906, is particularly noticeable as the price of provisions, meat, and vegetables particularly, was very low during the year under review. Further, the price of water to the shipping was reduced during the year from 5s. to 2s. a ton. This reduction was carried out in the hope that more sailing vessels would call in for water, a hope that so far has not been realized. Even the few vessels that did call required very little in the way of stores, provisions, and water. The only good customers are warships and whalers. There is a probability of American whaling vessels calling at St. Helena more frequently than in the past few years. Whaling crews can always be readily replenished at the Island, as the St. Helenian is a good seaman. The falling off in calling ships has done more than anything else to deprive St. Helena of the little prosperity she formerly possessed. The withdrawal of the garrison of 150 men was as nothing in its evil effects compared to the decline in shipping. The people of Jamestown, particularly, are suffering from the changed times. They cannot compete with their country brethren in the way of obtaining agricultural labour. The fact is that the majority of town men do not give satisfaction as labourers. They cannot stand the country rains for one thing, and prefer the warmer climate of Jamestown to the temperate climate of the highlands. The Jamestown folk are a shipping community without any shipping, and when placed on agricultural or road work are somewhat like fish out of water. I am inclined to think that as the phormium industry develops the time is not far distant when the Government may find it necessary to move families from the Jamestown and Half-tree-Hollow districts and settle them in the country. Jamestown as a shipping port is practically played out. This fact is due not only to the Cape route having been abandoned for the Suez Canal route, but also on account of the substitution of steam for sailing vessels.

I would add that the arrangement for supplying pure spring water to the shipping direct to the water boats, in place of the old style of supply from the reserve tanks on the wharf, has answered well, and no inconvenience has been experienced as was anticipated.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Seven Ordinances were enacted during the year under review—the most important being:—

No. 1.—“The Liquor Licence Ordinance,” further amending the law in force with reference to licences for the sale of intoxicating liquors. This Ordinance did away with a grocer’s licence which had been introduced under Ordinance No. 7 of 1906.

No. 4.—“The Juvenile Smoking Prevention Ordinance.” Although there were only two prosecutions under this Ordinance during the six months it was in force, the Inspector of Police reports that juvenile smoking in St. Helena has been most effectually stopped. The fact is, boys are practically unable to purchase cigarettes and tobacco as the shopkeepers are very particular in strictly complying with the law governing the sale of smoking materials.

No. 6.—“The Customs Amending Ordinance,” to reduce the Tariff of charges for water to the shipping. Under this Ordinance the charge for delivering pure spring water into water boats for the supply of His Majesty’s ships and other vessels is 2s. per ton. Formerly the charge was 2s. 6d. per ton for His Majesty’s ships and 5s. per ton for all other vessels. The reduction was made in the hope that more sailing ships might be induced to call in for water. That hope was not realized during the year under review.

No. 7.—“The Tax Amendment Ordinance,” to repeal the tax on water boats, baggage boats, and passage boats, and substitute a reduced tax on those boats. This Ordinance came into force on the 1st January, 1908. So very few ships call at St. Helena now-a-days that owners of the class of boats referred to have little opportunity of doing business therewith.

Two Proclamations were issued during the year under review, both dealing with the Game season.

IV.—EDUCATION.

During the year under review there were nine elementary schools in various parts of the Island, being an increase of one, as compared with the previous year. The schools contained an aggregate of 634 scholars, namely, 326 boys and 308 girls, an increase of 11 over 1906. Of the total number given, 269 scholars attended the three Government schools. The new school, known as Blue Hill School, was opened in January of the year under review and is situated in the Western district of the Island. The school is doing good work, and is the first school in the Island to institute the modern system of teaching from the commencement. The teacher received his training in the Government schools, and had the advantage of working as assistant teacher for two years under Mr. Tucker. The Inspector of Schools, the Reverend Canon Porter, reports that the work of the schools generally, as shown at the examinations, exhibited manifest improvement, there being less stereotyped work and less cram than formerly. The substitution of purely oral work in place of text books in the Government schools has borne good fruit. The inspector reports particularly favourably on the Government Senior School. This school stands well ahead of all others. Canon Porter states: "The school, after a full year's uninterrupted work, has probably reached the highest pitch of development as an elementary school"—and again: "St. Helena has at last what may be called a model elementary school fed from the Government Junior School, which occupies another building."

Owing to the want of funds the Colonial Government cannot attempt to go beyond elementary education excepting to the extent of the Pupil Teachers' classes under Mr. Tucker. The great object therefore is to improve the methods and facilities of elementary teaching as much as possible. With this end in view I was anxious to introduce a scheme, drawn up by Mr. Tucker, tending to a complete assimilation of methods in at least all the Jamestown schools, with the Government Senior School as a Higher Elementary School and Pupil Teachers' Centre. Unfortunately those persons responsible for the management of the non-Government schools (which are practically Church schools) were not prepared to co-operate in the scheme, and so my idea fell to the ground. This Government's efforts to further improve educational methods must, I fear, be confined to Government schools. There can be no substantial improvement in the non-Government schools until they have some one to supervise them who has a trained knowledge of modern method. Want of funds prevents certificated teachers from being engaged, but this is no reason why an effort should not be made by the management of the schools concerned to improve upon the system of teaching as at present existing in the majority of those schools.

To return to the Government schools, and more especially to the Government Senior School. The progress made in the year under review was most marked. Definite for indefinite instruction has resulted. The curriculum has been enlarged, thus developing the intelligence, observation, and reasoning powers of the children. With this end in view, elementary science, object and nature study lessons have been introduced in the Senior School. English literature, with Shakespeare as a special subject, has been utilized in assisting the children to acquire a facility in literary composition. That this has been successfully accomplished, particularly when the parlous state of education in the past is taken into account, is proved by the work done in competition for Lord Meath's Challenge Cup and the League of Empire Prize for the best essay *inter* all Primary Schools of the Empire. The subject for 1907 was "The History of British India." Eva Fagan of the Senior School was successful in winning the prize and trophy. The child's achievement was really a notable one, bringing great credit both on herself, her teachers, and the school to which she belongs. In this connection much disappointment has been caused in the Senior School by the fact that the Prize Essay subject for 1908 is of such a nature that it would be almost impossible for St. Helena children to compete with any chance of success, for in the present unsatisfactory state of the Island's affairs no one could with any degree of satisfaction pen any inducements to a would-be emigrant to settle in St. Helena, as the subject of the essay demands.

An important branch of the work done in the Government schools is the training in physical exercises in and out of school, and in organized games. A very successful Schools Cricket League, in which all schools take part, has been in operation during the past two years. Hygiene is taught in the Government schools with excellent results.

Good progress was made by the Government pupil teachers in their course of instruction under Mr. Tucker. The greater majority of the students show marked interest in their studies, and there is generally speaking a better tone observable. Hardly any advantage is taken of these classes by the non-Government pupil teachers. The Government school teachers are compelled to attend. The discipline observed in the other schools does not, I fear, come up to this standard, and the teachers are allowed to please themselves in the matter.

With a few exceptions compulsory attendance at school is no longer looked upon as a hardship, but is welcomed alike by parents and children. On the other hand very few children remain at school after the age of fourteen—their parents requiring them for work at home. A very large number of the parents are uneducated and therefore are not able to realize the advantages gained by keeping their children at school a year or two longer, especially when the child is making good progress.

Among the retrenchments of the year was the abolition of the post of Attendance Officer. This fact made it difficult to closely supervise the regular attendance of children at the several schools. There were 25 prosecutions under the Education Ordinance during the year for non-attendance, and 19 of the defendants were convicted. There were many more cases which should have, under ordinary circumstances, come into Court, but the Board of Education found it necessary to be very lenient in the matter. The prevailing distress seriously affected the attendance of many children, especially in those schools situated in the Jamestown and Half-Tree-Hollow districts. So many parents were unable to provide breakfast for their children. These children either stayed away from school, or, if they attended, were not able to give any real attention to their work. This disability was most marked during the greater part of the year under review. Things are improving though.

The nucleus of a Teachers' and Senior Scholars' Library was formed during the year under review. At present the library contains 400 volumes, thanks to the generosity of the Victoria League, the Kyrle Society, and the Gilchrist Trust. The kind thought which prompted these bodies to lend St. Helena a helping hand in her days of trial is much appreciated by the community generally. The books are made good use of by the children and by the teachers who are under training, and will be, as time goes on, an important educational factor.

Among the economies effected on the 1st January, 1907, was the abolition of the salary of the Inspector of Schools. The Reverend Canon Porter, however, very generously offered to continue in office without salary. The thanks of this Government are due to Canon Porter for his consideration.

The expenditure under education for the year under review amounted to £623, as compared with £710 in 1906. Included in the expenditure were grants of £30 and £25 respectively to the Benevolent Society and Hussey Charity schools.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

There is one hospital in the Colony which belongs to the Colonial Government, being situated in Jamestown.

The admissions to hospital during the year amounted to 114, as compared with 104 in the previous year. The daily average of patients in hospital was 8·2.

There were four deaths among the patients, giving a death-rate of 3·5 per cent., as compared with three deaths and a mortality of 2·8 per cent. in 1906. Two out of the four deaths were due to accidents, one case being moribund on admission. Both were cases of fracture of the base of the skull. Twelve cases of enteric fever were admitted to the Hospital during the period under review, of which one proved fatal. In the previous year there were three cases of enteric and no deaths. The one death in 1907 from the disease named was that of a boy who was not brought to the hospital until the disease was well advanced and hemorrhage from the bowel had already appeared. There were two admissions during the year for tubercle, as compared with nine in the previous year. In both cases the disease had been of some standing.

The Colonial Surgeon reports that the efficiency of the nursing staff continues to be maintained at a high level. Nurse Marriott completed her three years' engagement under the Government in August of the year under review and was succeeded by Nurse Moloney.

(B.) SAVINGS BANK.

At the close of the year under review there were the names of 138 depositors in the Bank's books, being an increase of 19 during the year. This increase was chiefly accounted for by the relatives of several of the Port Nolloth men depositing small sums in the Bank. Several accounts were closed during the same period, a few of which were those of the oldest depositors on the Bank's books. Want of employment and hard times generally were the reasons assigned for the closing of the accounts in question.

In my last report under this head I gave it as the Manager's opinion that 1906 was the worst year for employment he had known in St. Helena in an experience covering over fifty years. The early months of 1907 were even worse in this respect, but during the last quarter of the year there was a marked improvement.

The following figures show the year's transactions, as compared with 1906:—

	1907.	1906.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Deposits	1,443 16 0	3,386 1 0
Withdrawals	3,553 10 7	8,965 19 4
Interest paid on deposits	594 0 4	684 15 3

The total amount deposited during the year under review was less than in any one year for the last twenty-one years and more.

On the 31st December, 1907, the Bank's reserve amounted to £19,646 8s. 8d., being a decrease of £1,515 14s. 3d., as compared with the same date a year previous. The reserve above quoted is larger than in any year preceding 1900.

The revenue of the Bank for the year was £746 0s. 5d., or £236 17s. 10d. less than in 1906. The expenditure for the same period was £552 12s. 11d., being £81 7s. 5d. less than in the previous year. The profit on the year's transactions works out at £193 7s. 6d., as compared with £348 17s. 11d. in 1906.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Supreme Court.—There was one case only during the year under review: a misdemeanour under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, resulting in an acquittal.

Police Court.—Crime continues to decrease. Only 106 cases came before the Court during the year, being 12 less than in 1906, as shown in the following table:—

Cases.	1907.	1906.
1. Assaults and other offences against the person ...	13	13
2. Malicious injury to property	—	—
3. Offences against property other than malicious ...	15	2
4. Offences against highways and other acts relating to the social economy of the Colony.	36	53
5. Soliciting, drunkenness, &c.	42	50
Totals	106	118

None of the cases were of a serious nature. Three were cases of desertion from American whalers, and one came under the Juvenile Smoking Prevention Ordinance. Of the 36 cases under sub-head 4 of the above table no less than 25 were prosecutions under the Education Ordinance, in 19 of which convictions were obtained. One man was convicted for concealing in his house a deserter from a whaler. The Police Magistrate reports that drunkenness continues to decrease, and that even offences connected with the use of bad language are few and far between. I consider that the total absence of serious crime among a population of nearly 4,000 people

during a year of unusual depression is most creditable to the islanders. The patient manner in which the poorer classes accepted their lot was nothing short of remarkable.

(B.) PRISONS.

The number of prisoners received into the gaol during the year was 45, being 10 more than in the previous year. As, however, nearly all of the offences committed were of a trivial nature, the duration of the sentences was considerably shorter than in 1906. The daily average number in gaol was 1·16, as compared with 2·65 in the previous year. The daily average recorded is 100 per cent. less than in any year since I assumed office in the Colony. The gaol was empty during 116 days of the period under review. There was no sickness among the prisoners and the sanitary conditions of the gaol continue to be satisfactory.

—	Male.	Female.	Total.
Number of prisoners in gaol on 31st Dec., 1906	3	1	4
" " " admitted, 1907	32	13	45
" " " discharged, 1907	35	14	49
" " " in gaol on 31st Dec., 1907	—	—	—

The cost of the gaol for the year was £122 10s. 6d., being a decrease of £40 5s. 6d. on the figures for 1906.

Twenty-five Zulu rebels were transported to the Colony from Natal in June of the year under review. They are confined in a portion of the Ladder Hill Barracks under a guard of two Natal and three local warders. Their diet, including a tobacco allowance, is a very liberal one; and since they arrived in the Colony only one trivial complaint was made by them, which was immediately remedied. The behaviour of the prisoners has been excellent.

(C.) POLICE FORCE.

The efficiency of this small force was maintained during the year. 193 cases were noticed by or reported to the police during the year—being 37 less than in 1906. Eighty-seven trivial complaints, in which action in the Courts was unnecessary, were investigated and disposed of by the police.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The civil population on the 31st December, 1907, was estimated at 3,485, as compared with 3,526 in the previous year. In addition to the number given were 2 Natal warders and 25 Zulu prisoners, also the crew of H.M.S. "Pelorus," then in port, numbering 234—making a total on the date named of 3,746. The decrease in the civil population of 41 was chiefly accounted for by the emigration of 183 persons including 100 men who proceeded to the Namaqualand mines and 15 men shipped in whaling vessels. The number of immigrants for the same period amounted to 45, not including the warders and Zulu prisoners referred to above. The figures in 1906 were 97 and 38 respectively.

The births numbered 134 (including 4 still-born and 32 illegitimate), as against 118 (3 still-born and 37 illegitimate) in the previous year.

There were only 36 deaths (including 3 seamen), as against 46 (including 3 seamen and 1 soldier) in 1906. The death-rate among the civil population amounted to 9·4 per thousand, or under 1 per cent., as compared with 11·9 per thousand in the previous year. Out of the 33 deaths among the civil population 9 were under the age of twelve months and 15 over the age of 70 years. Consequently the death-rate among persons between the ages of 1 year and 70 years works out at the abnormally low figure of 0·25 per cent.

The marriages numbered 17, being an increase of 6 over the previous year.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of the population was maintained at a standard above the average. The death-rate of 9·4 per thousand given above is the lowest yet recorded for St. Helena.

The Colonial Surgeon in his annual report refers to the incidence of sickness within the limits of Jamestown, in the case of two diseases, as presenting features worthy of interest. The report runs:—

"I refer to minor epidemics of enteric fever and diphtheria respectively. With regard to the first, there were in all twelve cases. Six of these occurred in two adjoining houses, and they appeared some short time after a marked dampness had been noticed in two cellars, used as living rooms. This dampness to a great extent cleared away after a leak in a surface drain which ran past the house, but on the opposite side of the roadway, had been repaired. That the soil was infected, and thus in some way conveyed the disease is merely conjecture, and

could only have been confirmed by elaborate bacteriological processes at present beyond the Colony's resources. The remaining cases of enteric fever were not connected with these two houses nor with each other, and no explanation of them was to be found.

"The first case of diphtheria made its appearance in the month of January, and further cases occurred in the months of February, May, June, August, and December, making a total of sixteen cases. There was one death, that of a child aged three years, representing a mortality of 6.2 per cent. At the time of the first appearance of diphtheria there were cases of sore throat amongst the school children, and some of these may have been mild attacks of the graver disease, but antitoxin was only administered in cases where clinical signs left little room for doubt. With the exception of two cases of diphtheria in 1905 it is fifteen years since the disease is recorded as prevalent in the Island.

"It is worthy of note that the two diseases whose prevalence a good system of drainage is expected to reduce should so soon after the completion of the Jamestown Sewerage Scheme have shown an unusual activity. The good health of the Island, therefore, cannot very well be attributed to the effect of draining Jamestown. Were one to speculate upon the causes of the reduction in the sickness and mortality, probably that one nearest to the truth would be found in the enforced moderation in diet arising out of the economic conditions which existed in 1907. On the other hand I regret to record that two deaths amongst children under one year of age were practically due to starvation. In each case the father of the family had been out of work for many months and had evidently not realised till too late the state to which the infant had been reduced. An earlier application to charitable neighbours or to the parish would no doubt have resulted in the saving of two lives."

I am inclined to think that in the case of one of the two children referred to above by Dr. Arnold, the apathy of the parents was to a great extent responsible for the death of the child. There is no doubt, however, as the Colonial Surgeon points out, that although a certain number of the islanders have acquired too readily the art of begging, the majority are prevented by a certain sense of pride or independence from revealing their domestic circumstances.

Dr. Arnold is a strenuous advocate of open air treatment for tubercle diseases. He has done a vast amount of good by instilling into the minds of the cottagers the imperative necessity of allowing plenty of fresh air into their houses by day and night. An islander until quite recently seldom put a window into the weather side of his cottage. Dr. Arnold's report on the marked decrease in tubercle cases is interesting. He states:—

"No fresh cases of tubercle of the lungs came to my notice during the year. This is a gratifying and somewhat remarkable fact as formerly "consumption" claimed far too many victims, more deaths amongst the population being due to that than to any other disease, and last year there was but a single death from tubercle. Only two cases were admitted to hospital, both having had the disease for some time, and I had knowledge of no more than five or six old cases amongst the outside community. Were every house in St. Helena freely open day and night to the pure breath of the South East trade wind, phthisis as a disease should ere long cease to exist on the Island. It is difficult to persuade people that it is of equal importance that windows should be open at night as well as by day. During the past five years the gospel of the open window has been preached in season and out of season, and there is evidence to show that it has been not altogether uttered to unheeding ears, and the old dread of an open window is being gradually overcome. In most of the houses ventilation was unthought of when they were first designed, and ideal conditions for the entry of air into dwellings are scarcely obtainable. Here and there old pernicious habits will be retained in spite of a spreading enlightenment, and we may therefore expect cases of phthisis to continue to appear on the lists of sickness and mortality in St. Helena. If, however, the present very striking diminution in its prevalence be maintained, there is good ground for congratulation."

The Colony still remains with only one medical practitioner. Fortunately for the community generally, Dr. Arnold has not yet been laid up for a single day.

(C.) SANITARY.

There was nothing of importance to record during the year in connection with sanitary matters. There was only one prosecution for contravention of the Public Health Ordinance. With the exception of coming under suspicion in the matter of the outbreaks of diphtheria and enteric fever, the Jamestown sanitary system worked satisfactorily. The sewer ventilators, which were in a few instances too low, and in harmful proximity to neighbouring windows, were raised to a safer height where necessary. 112 vaccinations were performed, 96·3 per cent. being successful.

The Colonial Surgeon expresses the opinion, in which I fully concur, that the Public Health Ordinance of 1889 requires to be either recast or amended so as to enlarge its scope and embrace many sanitary concerns which it does not touch upon. The application of the Ordinance referred to is confined to Jamestown and the Briars, the remainder of the Island being left without the blessings of sanitary law. On the other hand sanitary laws are useless unless they can be rigidly enforced. To do this means efficient supervision. The finances of the Colony, however, are not able to stand the cost of such

supervision at present. As regards Jamestown and the Briars, sanitary supervision is exercised by the Inspector of Police in a very satisfactory manner, the salary attached to the post of Sanitary Inspector being £6 per annum.

(D.) CLIMATE.

Hutt's Gate.

The mean pressure for the year was 28·147 inches, being exactly the same as for the previous year. I take it that a barometer is practically useless in the tropics.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 60·9°, against 60·3° for the year 1906. The maximum temperature, 76·0°, was recorded on the 19th and 20th March; the maximum for the previous year was 75·0° on the 20th March and 25th April. The lowest maximum, 65·0°, was registered on the 21st November; the lowest for 1906 being 64·6° on the 12th July.

The absolute minimum was recorded on 27th August—49·9°—compared with 48·5° on 15th September, 1906.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for 1907 was 44·045 inches, being a decrease of 5·725 inches on the previous year (49·770 having been the total in 1906). The maximum fall was 1·1 inches on 4th August; 1·910 being the maximum in 1906. The number of days on which rain fell was 277, corresponding exactly with the number of the previous year. April was an exceedingly wet month, it having rained every day of the month; the total fall for that month was 8·2 inches, the third heaviest monthly fall recorded since the establishment of the Meteorological Station at Hutt's Gate in 1892. August, strange to report, was about the mildest month of the year. Rain fell only on seventeen days. This remark applies also to "wind" as will be seen from figures under that head.

Wind.—The anemograph worked continuously without a break during the year.

The mean force was 2·4, which is equivalent to 14 miles—being the same rate as in the four previous years. July and August were very calm months, which is quite unusual. August is one of the most windy months of the year—four days of calm were recorded in the same month, which is indeed a very rare occurrence.

The direction for the year under report was:—

Direction.	Days.
S.S.E.	218
S.E.	89
E.S.E.	24
E.N.E.	1
W.S.W.	1
N.N.W.	1
S.	20
Calm	11

*Jamestown.**Temperature.*

	1906.	1907.
Mean	72·7°	72·8°
Maximum	80·0°	81·0°
	on 14th February and 2nd March.	on 15 March.
Minimum	66·0°	65·0°
	on 4th July and 11th August.	on 14th September.

Rainfall.

	1906.	1907.
Total for year	9·53 ins.	11·50 ins.
No. of rainy days.	112	107
Maximum fall	0·430 ins.	0·710 ins.
	on 31st March.	on 10th April.

April was the wettest month with 3·87 inches and 24 days of rain.

Oak Bank.

Rainfall.—50·06 inches on 237 days of rain. The figures for the previous year were 48·5 inches on 228 days. On seven days during the year under review over an inch of rain was recorded, five days of which were in April.

St. Paul's Vicarage.

Rainfall.—39·91 inches on 181 days of rain as against 33·92 inches on 212 days in 1906. Although St. Paul's Vicarage is situated at the same height above the sea as is Oak Bank (1,800 feet), and lies only 1,500 yards (as the crow flies) to the North of Oak Bank, the rainfall recorded at the latter place exceeded that recorded at the Vicarage by over 10 inches. The difference in 1906 was even greater, namely: 14½ inches.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) POSTAL.

The total revenue from all sources was £558 15s. 10d., a decrease of £71 3s. 1d., as compared with the previous year. This decrease was almost entirely due to the withdrawal of the garrison, but the raising of the unit of weight during the latter part of the year under review of letters from ½ ounce to 1 ounce to the United Kingdom and British Colonies necessarily caused a decrease in revenue. I do not, however, fancy that the increase of weight from ½ ounce to 1 ounce for 2½d. on letters to foreign countries was felt to any appreciable extent.

The expenditure for the year was £328 2s. 9d., or £34 0s. 9d. less than in 1906, chiefly due to the reductions of salaries of the Post Office staff.

The following tables give all details of postal matters dealt with during the years 1906 and 1907:—

From the United Kingdom.

—	1907.	1906.
No. of mails from England	14	15
" " bags mail from England and Ascension	182	240
" " boxes parcel post	188	194
" " parcels	1,791	1,771
" " registered articles... ..	408	365
" " insured letters	2	1

To the United Kingdom.

—	1907.	1906.
No. of mails to England	18	17
" " bags mail to England (and Ascension)...	80	71
" " letters (ordinary)... ..	12,864	20,732
" " postcards	6,338	10,886
" " other articles	2,246	2,552
" " parcels	229	260
" " registered articles... ..	1,311	1,401
" " insured letters	nil	nil

From South Africa.

—	1907.	1906.
No. of mails from Cape Colony and Natal ...	13	14
" " bags mail	57	58
" " parcels	530	208
" " registered articles... ..	441	317
" " insured letters	nil	nil

To South Africa.

—	1907.	1906.
No. of mails to Cape Colony and Natal ...	15	15
" " bags mail	73	41
" " letters (ordinary)... ..	13,239	10,282
" " postcards	2,136	775
" " other articles	2,180	1,716
" " parcels	358	142
" " registered articles... ..	182	204
" " insured letters	nil	nil

It will be noticed that there is a large decrease as compared with 1906 in the letters and post cards despatched to the United Kingdom, due to the withdrawal of the garrison and continued falling off in calling ships. There was, however, an increase in the mail matter despatched to South Africa, due chiefly to the emigration of a large number of men to the Namaqualand mines. The increase in parcels sent from South Africa is due to the men referred to sending quantities of wearing apparel to their relatives in St. Helena.

Money and Postal Order transactions during the last two years were:—

—		1907.	1906.
		£	£
To United Kingdom ...	3,809	4,954	
To South Africa ...	366	545	
From United Kingdom ...	921	678	
From South Africa ...	796	578	
Totals ...	£ 5,892	6,855	

Commissions on above amounted to £41 8s. 9½d., being £3 4s. 0½d. less than in the previous year.

Owing to there being no longer an Imperial Treasury chest in the Colony the Post Office has at times to remit specie to the General Post Office in London. To cover the expense incurred on freight on such shipments an increased commission was imposed towards the end of the year upon all Money Orders. Postal Orders were not included in this increase.

I would mention that a very convenient arrangement in the accounts connected with Money Orders to and from South Africa was arrived at by including all such transactions in the London returns.

A mail was despatched to the Island of Tristan da Cunha by the American whaler "Sunbeam" in September of the year. It is not yet known whether that vessel reached the Island named or not.

Special statistics of all postal matter were taken during November of the new year under review for the purpose of calculating future transit charges in connection with the Postal Union. The information obtained showed a decrease in St. Helena mail matter, and it is to be hoped the Colony's share in transit charges will accordingly be reduced.

(B.) TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

Telegraphs.—The Eastern Telegraph Company now work with a staff of 30 employees, being 13 less than in 1906.

Telephones.—Owing to the parlous state of the Colony's finances it was found necessary at the end of January of the year under review to abolish even the limited and inexpensive telephone system maintained by the Colonial Government since the 1st November, 1906. What the abolition of the system meant to a large part of the community, and especially to the Government, can only be understood by persons who have lived in St. Helena and who have experienced the difficulty of communication in a place possessing the Island's peculiar topographical features. The absence of telephonic communication would be especially a serious inconvenience in the common event of the doctor's services being urgently required. It is imperative, too, that the Colonial Surgeon should be able to communicate at once with the hospital when necessary. It must be remembered that St. Helena possesses only one doctor. It goes without saying that it was necessary to establish a system that would at least meet the contingencies above referred to and at the same time allow the trading houses in Jamestown to be in touch with the country, and further to establish communication between Government House and the Castle in Jamestown. The difficulty was met by a few Government officials and residents, including the Eastern Telegraph Company's mess, deciding to maintain a limited system. The War Office very kindly came to the assistance of the persons concerned by handing over to them free of charge all stores other than certain instruments, which were loaned. The action of the War Office was greatly appreciated, and enabled the new system to be run most successfully during the year under review. Two public stations are maintained, one in Jamestown and one in the country. The operators in these stations receive a starvation wage, but are housed rent free, which is a consideration in these hard times.

(C.) SIGNAL STATIONS.

Since the troops were withdrawn from the Colony in October, 1906, only one signal station, that at Ladder Hill, has been maintained. The salary (£66) of the signalman is paid by Lloyd's.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) ROADS.

The finances of the Colony would not allow of any expenditure being incurred on the country roads during the year under review. The Imperial Treasury, however, came to the Colony's assistance by granting a sum of £300 early in the year for "relief works." This amount was almost entirely spent in putting the most important rural roads into fair order. Had

the grant not been forthcoming the state of the roads to-day would have been such as to seriously handicap phormium growers from delivering leaves at the mill. The rains in March and April were unusually severe. It is during the heavy summer rains from February to April that the greatest damage is caused to the roads. The steep gradients of nearly all the roads, making it necessary for wheeled transport to use shoes, thus cutting up the surface unduly, accounts for the abnormal damage caused by heavy rain. The Treasury grant not only saved the roads but was the means of furnishing employment to a large number of men at a time when the depression among the poorer classes was at its worst. The only road in the Island that it has been possible to keep in regular repair is that from Red Hill to Jamestown. This road is in excellent order.

Fifty-nine pounds was expended during the year in repairs to the streets of, and approaches to, Jamestown.

(B.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

The Commissioners of Crown Property approved of two transfers of properties in the General Register during the year under review. During the same period there were five grants of land, amounting to a total of 6 acres. All of these grants were under special conditions with a view of encouraging flax cultivation by cottagers. Free rent was granted up to 31st March, 1911, after which date rent at the rate of 5s. an acre per year will be charged.

The value of land continued to fall. To give a few instances: a property belonging to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund which up to 1906 rented for £30 a year now brings in £22 annually. The leases of two Colonial Government properties (grass lands) expired during the year, and the highest tenders resulted in a total annual rental of £78, being a fall of £32 on the former rents.

The rents for the year amounted to £799 3s. 10d., as against £858 6s. 8d. in 1906. Rents throughout the Colony are falling in keeping with the fall in the value of land. This fall may, however, soon be converted into a rise should the prospects of the flax industry continue to be favourable.

(C.) RATE OF WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The rate of wages fell generally in keeping with the depression existing in all circles. During the early months of the year the state of the labour market reached an acute stage and caused great anxiety. The departure of 100 men to the Port Nolloth mines in May greatly relieved the situation. Ninety-eight of these men allotted their families in St. Helena from 20s. to 30s. a month out of their wages, which allotments are paid locally on the first of each month. By this means about 500 women and children receive a small livelihood. These allotments must amount to at least £120 a month.

The cost of living was certainly much lower than for many years past. This especially applied to meat, potatoes, and green vegetables. The price of rice, however, which with fish is the chief diet of the poorer classes, rose towards the end of the year to 2*d.* a pound—an increase of about 20 per cent. compared to the price early in the year. This rise is naturally felt by the community concerned. As I stated in my last report, the people who suffer most in these hard times are those in the Jamestown and Half-Tree-Hollow districts. The 100 men who proceeded to Port Nolloth were chiefly drawn from those two districts. The exodus of these men was a veritable godsend to the Colony, and proved a regular safety-valve at a critical period.

(D.) DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

Of departments not already dealt with the Public Works Department is the only one requiring passing notice in this report. The expenditure of this Department for the year was £1,233, being £672 less than in the previous year. Rigid economy was exercised under every sub-head. On the 1st January, 1907, the wages of all Government employés were reduced by from 33 to 20 per cent. Several men who had been in regular Government employment had to be discharged. The spirit in which the reduction of wages was accepted was most praiseworthy. The men concerned were consoled to some extent in the knowledge that all Government permanent officials, including the Governor, had suffered in like manner, thus showing that the reductions made were of imperative necessity. The general feeling existing among Government employés is that prosperity may yet return to St. Helena and that the low wage now earned will prove to be but a temporary inconvenience. The expenditure provided for in the annual estimate would not allow of anything more than ordinary repairs being attended to. No special works could be undertaken. As usual, the flushing dam at the head of Jamestown suffered considerable damage from the heavy summer rains. These defects had to be at once attended to. Some much-needed repairs were effected to the sea wall in Jamestown, the cost thereof being met out of the £300 Treasury grant referred to under "Roads" above. The masons employed in the work were paid 2*s.* a day or 50 per cent. lower than the usual wage earned by that class. During the year under review the water system cost £199 to maintain, being £44 less than in the previous year. The following were the figures under the most important sub-heads for 1907, as compared with 1906:

	1907.	1906.
	£	£
Buildings	394	610
Scavenging, Jamestown ...	111	191
Forests	139	239
Telephones	15	80

A large quantity of old lead piping and other metal, the accumulation of many years, was collected and sent to England. The sale thereof, after deducting cost of freight and all charges, resulted in a net profit to the Colony of £334 odd. A ship's iron cable, which had lain on the wharf for a long period, was shipped to England and realized a net profit of £33.

Timber, stores, &c., were sold to the public by the Public Works Department during the year to the amount of £285, £120 of which was paid by the Flax Department in the purchase of material for the erection of the mill.

The following tables give the revenue and expenditure of the Poor Board and Public Market during the year under review and for the four years previous:—

Poor Board.

	Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
		£	£
	1903	829	821
	1904	872	855
	1905	881	881
	1906	857	900
	1907	799	798

Public Market.

	Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
		£	£
	1903	124	194
	1904	325	208
	1905	144	250
	1906	102	117
	1907	80	85

An honest endeavour was at last made by the Market Committee to cut down working expenses and to run things generally on sounder lines. Owing to the depression prevailing in the Colony during 1907, that year was necessarily an unfavourable one for the Market. The Committee succeeded during the last quarter of the year in cutting down monthly expenses by about 35 per cent. This will allow of the deficit being wiped out at an early date. The difficulty in collecting fish dues was met by leasing the fish market to the fishermen at a small rent, the tenants being responsible for repairs. This arrangement does away with fish dues and is a satisfactory one to both parties, especially to the fishermen in these hard times.

(E.) MISCELLANEOUS.

I have already in this report referred on several occasions to the serious depression which existed throughout the Colony during the year under review, more especially during the first six months of the year. There would appear to be no question but that the genuine distress among the labouring classes was greater during 1907 than at any other time in the history of the Colony, or, at all events, than in any year since the East India Company gave up possession of the Island. Both the social and financial aspect of 1907 were alike most discouraging and caused the gravest anxiety at times. Until the last quarter of the year work was almost unobtainable, and many families were in a state bordering on semi-starvation. There are unfortunately in St. Helena a large number of single women with families. These women, with no bread-winner in the family, were particularly hard hit. Allowing that they have only themselves to thank for the condition in which they find themselves does not prevent one's sympathy going out to the children in their miserable plight. It would serve no useful purpose for me to further dwell in this report on what must always remain a gloomy experience. I would, however, record my admiration at the almost exemplary manner in which the Islanders behaved during a time of severe hardship. There was no serious crime, and in three Quarter Sessions out of four, in my position as Chief Justice, I received a pair of white kid gloves from the Sheriff, there being no criminal cases to come before the Court.

1907 was a year of "experts" as far as St. Helena was concerned. Early in the year Mr. Herdsman visited the Colony and went thoroughly into the question of the manganese deposits. His report thereon was most unfavourable, making it clear that no benefits were to be derived in that direction. That gentleman, however, pronounced very favourably on extensive deposits of phosphate (old guano) lying on the eastern side of the Island. The hopes raised by Mr. Herdsman were doomed to disappointment, as the deposits referred to were at a later date reported on by an expert in such matters (Mr. Cannon), sent out by Messrs. James Morrison and Company, as not being worth working. The Island was then visited by two flax experts, Messrs. Fulton and Hall, both from New Zealand. Mr. Fulton remained some months in the Colony and left in January, 1908. Mr. Hall, however, remains in charge of the Government flax mill for some time longer. Mr. F. L. McDougall paid a month's visit to the Colony towards the end of the year in connection with the cultivation of the black wattle, sowing several experimental seed plots. The sixth expert to visit the Colony was Miss Penderel Moody, whose services were engaged to establish the lace-making industry in the Island. Miss Moody remains in St. Helena until the end of March, 1908, when it has fortunately been arranged that another expert shall carry on the good work begun by her.

It will, therefore, be seen that not a little was done in the year under review to exploit the resources of the Colony in every possible direction.

The St. Helena Committee in London continued their good work in St. Helena's cause.

References I made in my report on the Colony for 1906 in connection with honours conferred upon Colonial Government officials during that year were inadvertently omitted when the report was printed, so I take this opportunity of again recording the honours won by Mr. J. Homagee and Coxswain R. Francis.

His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to create Mr. Homagee a Companion of the Imperial Service Order in 1906. Mr. Homagee joined the St. Helena Government service in 1859 and has served continuously since that year. He holds several posts under the Colonial Government, namely: Collector of Customs, Police Magistrate and Small Debts Court Judge, Crown Prosecutor and Clerk of the Peace, and Manager of the Savings Bank.

Robert Francis, Coxswain of the Harbour Boat, was awarded the Imperial Service Medal on his retirement on pension at the end of 1906 after forty-six years' good and faithful service. Besides being a man of exemplary character, Francis possesses personal courage of a high order. During his service he rescued many fishermen who had been carried out to sea during rough weather. On one notable occasion he performed gallant service in navigating, during very heavy weather, a distressed vessel into port, the crew of which vessel had struck work.

During the year under review a gallant act was performed by Harbour Boatman H. O'Neil and Police Constable E. J. Fagan in rescuing an old woman who fell into the Run at the top of Jamestown, and who was carried by the rush of water out to sea. The Royal Humane Society has lately awarded both men certificates on vellum in recognition of their brave conduct.

Mr. E. H. M. Drury, Chief Clerk in the Governor's Office, after four years' service under the Colonial Government, was transferred to the Bechuanaland Protectorate in January of the year under review. He was succeeded in office by Mr. A. Hands, 2nd Clerk; the latter office being abolished under the retrenchment scheme.

Now that St. Helena is no longer a port of call for shipping, excepting for a few stray vessels, the Island's future prosperity depends chiefly upon the development of the phormium industry. The success of such industry is greatly handicapped owing to the violent fluctuations that are constantly occurring in the price of fibre on the London market. The Colonial Government can never hope to make more than a very small profit over its mill so long as fibre remains under £30 a ton. Should the price go below, say, £20, it is doubtful whether any

profit could be made. The great object, however, is that the industry should benefit the community generally, and so long as this can be done, and the mill run at a bare profit, all will be well. It was never anticipated that the Colonial Government would make a "good thing" out of the industry. A fair price must be paid for leaves. Owing to the abnormal difficulties of transport in St. Helena it would not pay the majority of land owners to supply leaves at under, say, 20s. a ton. There are a few owners whose plantations are not very far from the mill, who could well supply at a lower rate, but their stock of leaves would soon become exhausted if they were called upon to contribute the mill's full requirements for a long period. It is to be hoped, however, that the price of fibre will not fall further in the near future and so allow of a good start being made in an industry which is capable of conferring great benefits on a stricken community. I am inclined to think that in four years' time there will be sufficient mature flax available to keep at least three mills running. On the other hand I consider it would be bad policy for any one to start a mill at the present time in competition with the Government mill unless he was sure there were sufficient leaves available for a second mill during the period required for the late plantings to mature. I do not anticipate that another mill is likely to be established yet awhile.

Provided that the price of fibre does not fall to any further great extent, and so allow the mill to continue running at a small profit, the withdrawal of the garrison will have contributed in no small degree to some prosperity returning to the Colony. It was the withdrawal of the small garrison that called attention to St. Helena's condition and which led to a practical effort being made to establish an industry in the Island. Thanks to the financial aid rendered by the Imperial Government, and the assistance afforded by the New Zealand Government, the phormium industry is now a going concern with most encouraging prospects. I contend more than ever that St. Helena is capable of progress provided landowners will act in unison, and not for their own interests alone, in doing all they can to co-operate with the Government in furthering the success of the new industry. Industries, however, cannot flourish unless accompanied by industry. Now, the average St. Helenian, more especially the town man, is not industrious in the proper sense of that term. His wants are small and the genial climate tends to make him take things easy and to live only for the present. A large number of the Islanders have in the past year learnt to know what it is to be "in want." They do not, however, know what it is to suffer from frost and cold. Fires in St. Helena are only required, except as a luxury, for cooking purposes. Consequently the poor in times of distress do not suffer in St. Helena to anything like the extent experienced by the poor in a climate like England, for instance. Further, every St. Helenian has a roof over his head, although

a very leaky one in many cases. These facts, in my opinion, account to a great extent for the non-industrious nature of the Islanders as a whole. Possibly the rising generation, being better educated, may prove more industrious than their forbears. Let us hope so at all events. The two attributes, industry and education, do not necessarily go together, but education fosters intelligence, and the more intelligent a community is the better able are its members to recognize the necessity of helping themselves rather than trusting too much to extraneous assistance.

The economic situation in St. Helena to-day shows a marked improvement on what it was a year ago. Things generally are much brighter. I would hazard the opinion that the Island has turned the corner. It depends, however, chiefly upon the Islanders themselves whether there is to be any going back or not.

In closing this report I wish to record my thanks to all my officials for the manner in which they have supported me in the administration of the Government during an unusually difficult period in the Colony's history.

H. L. GALLWEY.

Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
13th March, 1908.

INDICATING THE

THREE ZONES OF VEGETATION.

Col. Office Note. The Three Zones of Vegetation are explained on pp. 3 and 4. of Colonial Report [Miscellaneous]
N° 38 [Cd. 3248.]



COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's
Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained
from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
527	Ceylon	1906
528	Bermuda	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906-1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	"
535	Malta	1906-1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906-1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
539	Leeward Islands	"
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906-1907
543	Bahamas... ..	"
544	Barbados	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago	"
546	Grenada	"
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
549	Jamaica	1906-1907
550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia... ..	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906-1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
44	East Africa Protectorate ...	Survey Department.
45	Do do. ...	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey (1904-5).
47	Do. do... ..	Do. (1905-6).
48	Nyasaland Protectorate ...	Do.
49	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c. ...	Cotton cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria ...	Forest Administration.

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1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 553.

S T. L U C I A.

REPORT FOR 1906-7.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 505.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
January, 1908.



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1908.

[Cd. 3729-17.] *Price 2d.*

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No. 553.

ST. LUCIA.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 505.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Grenada,

16th November, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of the Colony of St. Lucia for the year 1906-7, together with a report thereon by Mr. E. D. Laborde, who has been acting as Administrator.

I have, &c.,

RALPH WILLIAMS,

Governor.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1906-7.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) REVENUE.

The general revenue for the year 1906-7 was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Ordinary Revenue	57,940	1	4
Part Proceeds of Sale of reclaimed Lands	388	19	0
Balance of Immigration Fund trans- ferred to General Revenue	840	1	3
Total Local Revenue ...	59,169	1	7
Amount granted to the Colony from Imperial Funds in aid of Agri- culture	843	0	0
Total Revenue ...	£60,012	1	7

The revenue was £1,865 less than the revenue for the previous year and was the lowest collected during the past ten years. The ordinary revenue was £441 below the estimate.

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue:—

Comparative Statement of the Revenue of the Colony for the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

Heads of Revenue.		Estimate for 1906-7.			Actual Revenue to 31st March, 1907.			Revenue for same period of preceding year.			Increase.		Decrease.			
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
1.	Customs	27,000	0	0	25,521	9	4	26,762	2	1	—	—	1,240	12	9	
2.	Port, Harbour, &c., Dues	5,000	0	0	4,866	11	0	5,670	7	0	—	—	803	16	0	
3.	Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	18,320	0	0	17,764	12	1	18,172	10	1	—	—	407	18	0	
4.	Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Re-imbursements in Aid	3,348	10	0	3,710	8	2	3,502	9	11	207	18	3	—	—	
5.	Post Office	957	0	0	1,113	2	8	1,324	2	3	—	—	210	19	7	
6.	Telephone	592	0	0	606	11	2	551	5	0	55	6	2	—	—	
7.	Rent of Government Property	825	0	0	847	3	5	826	18	7	20	4	10	—	—	
8.	Miscellaneous	245	0	0	488	2	4	350	18	3	137	4	1	—	—	
9.	Interest	1,705	1	2	2,574	11	2	1,758	13	7	815	17	7	—	—	
10.	Repayment of Loans	388	10	0	447	10	0	388	10	0	59	0	0	—	—	
		58,381	1	2	57,940	1	4	59,307	16	9	1,295	10	11	2,663	6	4
11.	Part proceeds of Sale of Reclaimed Lands	500	0	0	388	19	0	1,342	0	1	—	—	953	1	1	
—	Balance transferred from Immigration Fund	—	—	—	840	1	3	—	—	—	840	1	3	—	—	—
12.	Imperial Department of Agriculture—Grant-in-Aid	791	0	0	843	0	0	1,227	8	1	—	—	384	8	1	
	Total	59,672	1	2	60,012	1	7	61,877	4	11	2,135	12	2	4,000	15	6

(B.) EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure was £60,293 18s. 10d., including £726 3s. 4d. paid from the Imperial Grant-in-Aid of Agriculture.

The following is a comparative statement of the expenditure :—

Comparative Statement of the Expenditure of the Colony for the Year ended 31st March, 1907.

Heads of Expenditure.	Estimate for 1906-7.			Actual Expenditure to 31st March, 1907.			Expenditure for same period of preceding year.			Increase.			Decrease.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Charges on Account of Public Debt	11,420	19	6	11,421	19	4	11,434	5	9	—	—	—	12	6	5
2. Pensions	1,853	3	4	2,150	14	3	1,885	14	4	264	19	11	—	—	—
3. Governor and Legislature	2,991	19	4	2,917	9	11	2,941	2	10	—	—	—	23	12	11
4. Treasury, Customs, and Inland Revenue	3,667	14	0	3,362	6	10	3,244	18	8	117	8	2	—	—	—
5. Post Office	1,183	16	0	1,021	18	11	1,196	18	9	—	—	—	174	19	10
6. Port and Marine	863	12	0	823	17	3	846	8	3	—	—	—	22	11	0
7. Audit	552	16	0	513	2	2	531	19	7	—	—	—	18	17	5
8. Legal	4,972	10	0	4,699	17	5	4,490	0	10	209	16	7	—	—	—
— Local Forces	—	—	—	444	15	7	—	—	—	444	15	7	—	—	—
9. Police	4,457	16	0	4,287	3	1	4,311	3	3	—	—	—	24	0	2
10. Prisons	1,346	6	0	1,432	10	3	1,438	5	6	—	—	—	5	15	3
11. Medical	2,655	16	0	2,576	7	2	2,669	7	6	—	—	—	93	0	4
12. Hospitals and Asylums	3,027	0	0	2,913	4	1	3,037	5	4	—	—	—	124	1	3

ST. LUCIA, 1906-7.

13. Charitable	...	...	...	585 0 0	515 13 7	585 1 11	—	69 8 4
14. Education	...	...	...	4,364 16 0	4,343 9 9	4,349 1 10	—	5 12 1
15. Ecclesiastical	...	...	...	1,600 0 0	1,600 0 0	1,600 0 0	—	—
16. Agriculture (from local funds)	...	...	...	776 0 0	770 4 6	437 7 9	332 16 9	—
17. Miscellaneous...	...	...	...	2,744 0 0	2,531 9 4	4,565 9 5	—	2,034 0 1
18. Colonial Engineers' Department	...	...	...	3,196 17 0	2,883 9 6	3,396 1 6	—	512 12 0
19. Public Works Recurrent	...	...	...	7,395 0 0	7,015 0 0	6,447 17 5	567 2 7	—
20. Public Works Extraordinary	...	...	...	59,655 1 2	58,224 12 11	59,408 10 5	1,936 19 7	3,120 17 1
				500 0 0	1,343 2 7	1,915 0 0	—	571 17 5
16A Agriculture (from Imperial Funds)	...	...	...	60,155 1 2	59,567 15 6	61,323 10 5	1,936 19 7	3,692 14 6
				791 0 0	726 3 4	1,197 17 11	—	471 14 7
Total	...	...	...	60,946 1 2	60,293 18 10	62,521 8 4	1,936 19 7	4,164 9 1

	£	s.	d.
The estimated expenditure was	60,946	1	2
and the estimated revenue	59,672	1	2
showing an estimated deficit of	£1,274	0	0

By careful economy small savings were effected in several directions amounting to £2,326, but this was counterbalanced to the extent of £1,674 of unforeseen expenditure that had to be incurred.

The actual expenditure was therefore £60,294, or £652 less than the estimate, against an actual revenue of £60,012, showing a deficit on the year's transactions of £282.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The following is a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Colony at 31st March, 1907:—

Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the Colony at 31st March, 1907.

LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.		
1907. March 31.	£	s. d.	1907. March 31.	£	s. d.
Savings Bank	16,177	19 11	Cash on hand	602	16 6
Towns and Villages Fund	1,463	14 2	Colonial Bank Current Account	1,334	14 6
Grenada Intercolonial Account	457	3 4	Colonial Bank Deposit Account	500	0 0
St. Vincent Intercolonial Account	87	3 4	Colonial Bank	1,000	0 0
Land Sales Fund	1,156	9 9	Colonial Bank	13,418	14 11
Land Sales Fund	287	13 4	Savings Bank	2,283	14 2
Charities Town Fund	88	10 1	Investments on Account of Savings Bank	20,790	10 8
Savings Bank Working Account	20	7 0	Investments on Account of Public Build- ings Insurance Fund	1,000	0 0
Police Recreation Fund	245	19 7	Loan to Castries Town Board for acqui- sition of Recreation Ground	539	14 5
Interest, Baron Trust Money Account	184	0 7	Loan to Castries Town Board for Cemetery		
Imperial Grant-in-Aid of Agriculture	89	19 4			
Sundry Deposits Account	609	8 10			
Suspense Account—Sale of Workyard Lots maturing	3,500	0 0			
Crown Agents' Advances against Bills maturing	222	18 5			
Crown Agents' Current Account					
		24,198			41,418 5 1
			Advances:		
			Authorised Advances Account	261	5 11
			Drafts and Remittances Account	7,502	0 0
			Post Office Account	216	3 6
					7,979 9 5
Surplus Assets: Surplus and Deficit Account	22,915	16 6			
Public Building Insurance Fund	2,283	14 2			
		25,199 10 8			
					£49,337 14 6
1907. March 31.					

Excess of Assets over Liabilities of the Colony of St. Lucia, exclusive of sums due to Debenture and Stock Holders on 31st March, 1907, £25,199 10s. 8d

(D.) SURPLUS FUNDS.

The surplus funds of the Colony on 31st March, 1907, amounted to £25,199 10s. 8d., which included the sum of £2,283 14s. 2d., being the amount of contributions at the rate of £300 a year set aside from general revenue as an insurance fund on public buildings. The investments on this account including the insurance fund amounted at the close of the year to £20,790 10s. 8d. as shown below:—

	£	s.	d.
Government of Zanzibar 3% debentures	3,000	0	0
Transvaal Government Stock 3% ...	9,970	13	3
Gold Coast Government Stock 3% ...	4,477	7	11
Sheffield Corporation Stock 3% ...	3,342	9	6
	£20,790	10	8

(E.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt at the 31st March, 1907, amounted to £157,779 11s., apportioned as follows:—

Colony's Share.

	£	s.	d.
Castries Harbour Loan ...	56,600	0	0
Central Factory ...	11,500	0	0
Public Works Loan ...	50,579	11	0
Water Works ...	12,000	0	0
Immigration ...	10,100	0	0
	140,779	11	0
Castries Town Board share...	17,000	0	0
	£157,779	11	0

The sinking fund amounted to £13,529 19s. 3d.

(F.) TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

Besides Castries, the chief town, there are nine towns and villages in the Island. The following table shows their order of importance as regards population according to the Census of 1901, and the revenue and expenditure in 1906 and the balance to the credit of each town or village fund at the close of the year:—

*Population, Revenue and Expenditure and Balance to Credit of
each Town or Village Fund at close of year.*

Name of town or village.	Population.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Credit Balance.
		£	£	£
Castries	7,910	5,217	5,601	298
Soufrière	2,394	508	446	142
Vieux Fort	1,619	165	131	109
Denbary	1,072	140	100	254
Anse la Raye	885	66	46	80
Laborie	808	66	54	49
Gros Islet	705	104	93	187
Micoud	577	73	61	42
Canaries	522	38	28	122
Choiseul	409	44	17	79
Total	16,901	6,421	6,577	1,362

The rates were in Castries and Soufrière 8 per cent. on assessed rental value of houses and 2 per cent. for water rate. In Vieux Fort, Gros Islet, and Canaries the rate was 6 per cent. on the assessed rental value of houses, and in the other villages the rate was 5 per cent.

The revenue in Castries was the lowest received since 1899, and was £719 less than the receipts for the previous year. This may be attributed to the depreciation of the rental value of property consequent on the emigration that followed the withdrawal of the garrison.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS.

The value of imports in 1906 was £242,469, as compared with £285,987 in 1905.

The following figures shew the value of the imports from the countries specified, as compared with the previous year:—

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1905 ...	95,086 10 11	56,891 7 11	134,008 15 11	285,986 14 9
1906 ...	87,842 19 2	34,077 11 4	120,548 17 5	242,469 7 11

The importations of coal amounted to 76,304½ tons, of the value of £94,056, as compared with 79,225 tons in 1905, of the

value of £96,620, not including 362 tons imported for the use of the military.

Of the coal imported in 1906, 13,236 tons came from the United Kingdom, and 63,068½ tons from the United States.

The imports are divided into the following classes:—

£

Class I.—Live Animals, Food and Drink Supplies, and Narcotics	87,702
Class II.—Raw Materials	111,568
Class III.—Manufactured Articles	67,511
Class IV.—Coin and Bullion	5,867

The following table shows the principal articles and values imported under the different Classes:—

Articles.	Quantity.	Value.
Class I.		
Live Animals—		£
Cattle	137	840
Horses and Mules	14	344
Sheep	21	129
Food and Drink Supplies—		
Ale and Beer, &c. (bottled)	5,586 doz. pts.	1,152
Ale and Beer, &c. (in wood)	102½ hhds.	322
Bacon and Hams	16,435 lbs.	509
Beef, Pork (salted and pickled)	189,978 "	2,498
Biscuits (common)	1,561½ brls.	842
Butter	47,568 lbs.	1,822
Oleomargarine	88,038 "	1,669
Cheese	18,785 "	612
Coffee	83,858 "	1,698
Confectionery	—	809
Fish (salted and dried)	7,623 cwt.	9,542
Flour	13,906 brls.	14,960
Fruits and Vegetables	—	1,249
Lard and its compounds	65,223 lbs.	1,062
Medicine (not containing Quinine)	—	1,397
Oats	7,428 bshls.	1,166
Oil (Lard, Olive, and others)	5,418 galls.	762
Pease and Beans	2,101 bshls.	1,023
Preserves	—	775
Rice	506,540 lbs.	2,824
Whisky	4,362 galls.	1,551
Sugar	144,505 lbs.	853
Wines	—	3,107
Narcotics—		
Tobacco (manufactured)	19,529 lbs.	1,463
Tobacco (unmanufactured)	49,092 "	1,044
Cigars and Snuff	302 "	143
Cigarettes	1,187 "	337

Principal Articles and Values Imported—continued.

Articles.	Quantity.	Value.
Class II.		
Raw Materials—		£
Coal	76,304 tons	94,056
Manure	4,622 bags.	4,795
Oil (Cotton Seed)	44,099 galls.	3,639
Oil (Engine and Paint)	4,711 „	429
Oil (Petroleum)	58,420 „	1,845
Wood (Pitch pine)	27,518 feet	109
Wood (White pine)	115,007 „	725
Class III.		
Textile Manufactures—		
Bags (empty)	—	2,375
Cottons and Woollens	—	25,645
Rope and Cordage	—	363
Twine	—	535
Metal Manufactures—		
Hardware	—	5,419
Iron (galvanised)	—	839
Machinery for industrial purposes	—	1,339
Tinware	—	599
Manufactured Articles other than Textile or Metal—		
Books (printed)	—	496
Boots and Shoes	—	3,999
Cement	—	987
Patent Fuel	732 tons	588
Earthenware	—	549
Furniture	—	2,056
Glassware	—	380
Haberdashery	—	7,585
Hats and Bonnets	—	2,318
Matches	—	422
Paints, Dyes, and Varnish	—	657
Perfumery	—	665
Soap (common)	—	2,465
Stationery	—	763
Class IV.		
Bullion	—	5,867

(B.) EXPORTS.

The value of the exports in 1906 was £220,313, as compared with £211,654 in the preceding year. £102,457 represented the produce and manufacture of the Colony, and £117,856 the produce of other Countries, of which £105,696 was for bunker coal exported.

The exports are divided into the following classes:—

	£
Class I.—Live Animals, Food and Drink Supplies, and Narcotics ...	100,101
Class II.—Raw Materials ...	114,165
Class III.—Manufactured Articles ...	2,037
Class IV.—Coin and Bullion ...	4,010

The following table gives the principal articles, the produce of the Colony, and the value exported under Classes I. and II.

Articles.	Quantity.	Value.
Class I.		£
Live animals—		
Cattle	14	68
Horses and Mules	40	666
Food and Drink Supplies—		
Cocoa (unmanufactured)... ..	1,579,200 lbs.	42,300
Honey	310 cases	386
Rum... ..	6,276 galls.	316
Sugar (Usine)	5,441 tons	51,689
Sugar (Muscovado)	230 tons	1,610
Sugar (Melhado)	313 casks	929
Sugar (Molascuit)... ..	1,517 bags	379
Class II.		
Raw Materials—		
Hides	156 pkgs.	974
Fuelwood	1,055 cords	528
Logwood	478 tons	836
Pimento Logs	176	350
Pimento Sticks	15,374 bndls.	684

(C.) COAL TRADE.

The following return shows the imports and exports of coal and the declared value during the past ten years:—

Year.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Tons.	Value.	Tons.	Value.
		£		£
1897... ..	63,902	58,869	73,130	76,177
1898... ..	76,046	72,149	73,411	73,411
1899... ..	61,487	45,196	76,417	72,596
1900... ..	99,864	89,090	100,578	125,154
1901... ..	85,819	99,959	85,743	110,516
1902... ..	57,169	67,220	72,426	84,641
1903... ..	58,333	70,138	50,307	64,446
1904... ..	50,443	63,199	59,376	71,080
1905... ..	79,587	97,261	82,149	103,478
1906... ..	76,304	94,056	86,997	106,000

(D.) SHIPPING.

The number of steamers that entered was 617 with an aggregate tonnage of 1,055,473 tons. The number that cleared was 618 and their tonnage 1,057,414 tons.

In addition 13 ships of war and four yachts visited the port, as against 16 and 5 in 1905, and 38 and 8 in 1904. The year was an unusually busy one for shipping. The number of steamers that entered has only been exceeded twice during the past ten years, namely, in 1897 and in 1900, when the number reached 620, but the aggregate tonnage in those years was respectively 869,739 and 906,158 tons, proving that larger ships are now visiting the port.

The following return shows the number of vessels, British and foreign, that entered and cleared, and the aggregate tonnage during the past seven years:—

Vessels Entered.

Year.	British.				Foreign.			
	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1900	473	751,463	271	9,009	147	154,695	41	6,258
1901	461	770,443	273	9,634	124	148,488	15	4,260
1902	430	682,878	338	11,001	108	141,240	71	3,869
1903	354	542,095	269	7,470	66	84,391	152	5,212
1904	373	544,895	231	7,349	77	98,544	45	2,899
1905	452	748,494	207	6,941	99	155,846	43	4,774
1906	534	931,449	246	7,310	83	124,024	38	3,749

Vessels Cleared.

Year.	British.				Foreign.			
	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1900	473	749,172	226	8,530	147	156,988	39	5,480
1901	460	768,110	266	9,788	124	142,488	15	5,509
1902	432	685,282	346	10,994	108	141,240	68	3,579
1903	352	540,122	280	7,664	66	84,391	150	4,564
1904	374	546,795	237	7,537	77	98,544	45	2,869
1905	452	748,494	207	6,941	98	153,905	43	4,774
1906	534	931,449	252	7,541	84	125,965	37	3,696

(E.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines in the Colony.

The only manufactures of any consequence are sugar and rum. There are four well-equipped central sugar factories, but the area of land in sugar cultivation is not as extensive as it might be, owing to want of labour and other causes. The exported produce amounted to 5,441 tons of crystallized sugar, 230 tons of Muscovado, and 313 casks of Melhado. Of this output Canada took 980 tons of Usine sugar and 60 tons of Muscovado, and the rest of the produce went to London markets.

There are two rum distilleries. Rum is produced principally for local consumption, and as the consumption is declining the quantity distilled keeps pace with its declension as the following table indicates:—

Year.	Quantity Distilled.	Consumed.	Exported.
	Galls.	Galls.	Galls.
1903... ..	72,470	53,558	16,286
1904... ..	57,429	52,562	5,684
1905... ..	56,150	50,337	8,655
1906... ..	49,553	46,950	6,319

The quantity in stock on the 1st January, 1903, was 21,911 gallons, and the quantity distilled during the four years, 235,582=257,493 gallons. The quantity consumed or exported was 240,351 gallons, and 6,307 gallons remained in stock, while 10,835 gallons or 4·20 per cent. was lost by leakage and evaporation.

There is a number of boats, principally small canoes, engaged in fishing, and fresh fish in abundance can be obtained for local consumption all the year round. There is no attempt at preserving fish for exportation.

(F.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

The staple industries are sugar and cocoa.

There was a marked increase in the sugar crop over 1905. The usine sugar exported was 5,441 tons of a declared value of £51,689, as compared with 3,721 tons of the declared value of £37,210 in the preceding year.

During the past ten years there has been a considerable fluctuation in the cocoa crop. In 1897, calculating at 200 lbs. to the bag, 4,768 bags were exported. In 1900 the exports rose to 6,490 bags, but in the following year fell to 3,285 bags. In 1902 the exports reached 7,524 bags, and in 1905, 9,468, the highest record. The average for the five years from 1897 to

1901 was 4,865 bags, and the average for the next five years, from 1902 to 1906, was 8,045 bags. It will be seen, therefore, from these figures, that the cocoa industry has been nearly doubled during the past ten years; but the progress of the industry has nevertheless been very slow considering the quantity of land suitable for cocoa in the possession of large and small proprietors. The attention directed this year to improvements in the methods of cultivation will have good and widespread results, especially among the peasant growers, as time goes on, while the great rise that has recently taken place in the price of cocoa will be the strongest inducement to planters to extend their cultivation.

The lime industry made great strides and appeared for the first time as an export produce. 571 packages of limes and 12 packages of lime juice were shipped. The cultivation is being extended. 40,000 plants were distributed by the Agricultural Department during the year.

Rubber also for the first time appeared as an article of export, a small quantity from trees of the *Castilloa Elastica* having been shipped. This industry has not however been started to any extent, and must be regarded as being still in an experimental stage.

The cultivation of Sea Island cotton has not yet been taken up. Some few years ago, at the instance of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, an effort was made to induce local growers to start the industry, but the trial was made in a lukewarm manner and proved a failure, which has since exercised a discouraging effect on any further attempts. Owing however to the successful results that have been obtained in the neighbouring Colonies, the desire to make another trial is manifesting itself, and it is hoped that this industry will soon again be started. There are large areas of cleared land, apparently well adapted for the cultivation, that are available for enterprise in this direction.

Agricultural Department.

The Botanic Station, and Agricultural School and Experiment Station, were maintained in efficient working order, and several minor improvements were effected during the year. Several of the nursery plant beds were reconstructed on an improved plan by which better drainage and greater means of checking insect and fungoid pests were secured.

A plant fumigating chamber for the treatment of imported plants by the hydrocyanic acid gas method, for preventing the introduction of insect pests, was established at the Botanic Station, and is now in use.

There was a great increase in the demand for economic plants for local planting. The total number of plants distributed was 64,850, being the highest annual record in the history of the station. Limes headed the list with 37,116

plants, being 25,282 above the previous year's record. 6,967 rubber plants were issued to local applicants

Useful leaflets on "The Improvement of Cocoa Plantations" and on "Rubber Growing" were prepared and distributed by the department for the information of the planting community.

The total expenditure on the Botanic Station and connexions, excluding building repairs and the cost of the fumigating chamber, was £809.13s. 9d. The sale of plants, &c., realised £64 2s.

Agricultural School.

The average number of pupils maintained during the year was 18.9. One pupil was admitted and three discharged to take up situations obtained for them.

All the ground provisions required for the Institution were produced on the premises, and a large number of economic plants was raised for distribution. The routine work associated with the training of the pupils in agricultural science and practice received careful attention.

The half-yearly examinations of the pupils show that good progress was made in their school and field work. The Medical Officer's report on the health of the boys and the sanitary condition of the institution was very satisfactory. The expenditure on the Agricultural School and Experiment Station was £586 14s. 3d. The receipts from the sale of plants and produce amounted to £55 12s. 3d.

With a view to making the institution partially self-supporting, a scheme was sanctioned for extending the cocoa cultivation and for supplying the hospital and prison with milk and ground provisions. To effect this purpose a sum of £300 was placed on the estimates to be expended in 1907 for clearing and planting six additional acres of cocoa, for increasing the area in ground provisions, and for the purchase of live stock. It is estimated that an additional annual expenditure of £144, to be expended on labour and stock food and other necessities, will be required for the next five years to carry out the proposal. In the meanwhile it is expected that the returns from 1908 will more than cover this recurrent annual expenditure, and that at the end of five years, when the additional cocoa comes into bearing, the original outlay will be recouped. If the cultivation can be subsequently further extended the institution might ultimately be made entirely self-supporting.

(G.) CROWN LANDS AND SURVEYS.

During the year 160 applications were received for 1,423 acres. On 32 of these applications the usual survey fee and deposit was paid. 75 surveys were executed. The acreage alienated amounted to 1,197 acres. Grants to the number of 79 were issued, and at the close of the year there were 59 further grants prepared and awaiting delivery.

The Land Sales Fund transactions were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Balance on 31st December, 1905 ...	854	6	6
Revenue, 1906	1,027	14	9
Expenditure, 1906	809	0	5
Balance on 31st December, 1906 ...	£1,073	1	0

(H.) PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure on public works amounted to £10,552 17s. 6d., as shown under the heads below:—

	£	s.	d.
Public Buildings—repairs and maintenance	643	4	2
Roads and Bridges—repairs and maintenance	5,919	0	7
Jetties—repairs and maintenance ...	162	9	11
Harbour Works	491	14	10
Miscellaneous Works	284	0	9
Works executed for Government Departments	212	1	9
Public Buildings and works extraordinary	715	11	10
Reclamation Piling—extraordinary ...	761	13	9
Roads and Bridges—Land Sales Fund	290	7	8
Telephones — reconstruction, repairs, and maintenance	1,072	12	3
	£10,552	17	6

There were no new works of any considerable importance started during the year.

The expenditure on public buildings and works extraordinary included £544 5s. 11d. for repairing damages to public buildings and bridges caused by the earthquake on 16th February, 1906. This amount does not represent the entire expenditure for making good all the injuries sustained by Government buildings. The work of repairs was delayed for a considerable period owing to the frequency of the shocks that recurred for some months, and all the damaged structures had not been repaired at the close of the year.

There are approximately 265 miles of road in the Colony:—

	Miles.
Main Roads	115
Byways	117
Unclassified	33
	265

There was no increase of roadway made during the year, but the expenditure of a sum of £5,000 from surplus funds was

sanctioned for the opening up of new roads which are very much needed for bringing within easy reach the fertile land in the interior of the Island.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Six Ordinances were passed during 1906, two of which were Appropriation Ordinances, while the others related to Contagious Diseases of Cattle, Telephones, Savings Banks, and the Pauper Asylum.

IV.—EDUCATION.

(A.) PRIMARY.

The general statistics for the year are given in the following table:—

Schools	No.	Number on Rolls.	Average Attendance.	Number Examined.	Government Grant.
Anglican	3	480	290	389	£ 285
Wesleyan	1	216	108	137	126
East Indian Mission ...	1	33	26	33	33
Roman Catholic	39	6,012	3,473	4,423	2,946
Total	44	6,741	3,897	4,982	3,390
The figures for 1905 were	46	7,256	3,832	5,057	3,339

(B.) SECONDARY.

Secondary Education is provided for boys by the St. Mary's College, and for girls by the St. Joseph's Convent. The former school received a Government grant of £400, and the latter one of £50. The total expenditure on these schools was £730 and £500 respectively, the school fees collected being £277 and £235.

There were 71 boys on the roll of the college, with 68 in average attendance, the figures for St. Joseph's Convent for girls being 104 and 77 respectively.

The boys are prepared for the Cambridge Local examinations, and the girls for those of the London College of Preceptors. The girls are also taught needlework—plain and fancy, drawing, and painting.

One of the conditions attached to the grant to St. Mary's College is the right to have ten Government scholars educated at the College free of charge. The report on these boys shows work and conduct "satisfactory" in seven cases, work "very

fair," conduct "satisfactory" in two, and work "unsatisfactory," conduct "satisfactory" in one.

At the examination in December to fill four vacancies, nine candidates presented themselves. The best candidates obtained, out of a total of 100 marks, 75, 70, 68, and 67.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

The following statement tabulates the principal statistics relating to the hospitals and asylums of the Colony:—

Institutions.	No. of patients at beginning of year.	No. admitted during 1906.	Daily Average.	Patients discharged.		No. of Deaths.	Remaining in Hospital at end of year.
				Cured.	Relieved.		
Victoria Hospital, Castries	69	1,362	72	869	393	105	64
Soufrière Hospital ...	2	27	1.22	21	6	2	—
Vieux-Fort Hospital ...	4	44	3	28	9	2	4*
Dennerly ...	1	16	1	9	4	4	—
Yaws Hospital, Soufrière	34	52	29	47	4	1	34
Poor Asylum "	43	96	55	—	50	31	58
Lunatic Asylum "	19	13	17	3	—	4	17†

* Five patients discharged, condition not improved.

† Eight sent to Grenada Lunatic Asylum.

(B.) DISPENSARIES.

Outdoor medical relief is given through the medium of a dispensary in each district, at which a medical officer attends every week.

The number of patients treated during the past two years was as follows:—

Dispensary.	1905.	1906.
Castries	7,399	8,007
Gros-Islet	619	654
Dennerly	1,067	992
Anse-la-Raye	724	655
Soufrière	887	1,245
Choiseul	171	314
Vieux-Fort	1,193	1,481
Laborie	693	490
Micoud	610	518
Babonneau (opened September 14th, 1906) ...	—	88
Total	13,363	14,444

The growing recognition of the advantages offered by the Victoria Hospital under an improving system of administration is marked by the increasing number of natives of the Colony admitted to the Institution during the past four years.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Natives of St. Lucia ...	364	553	797	979
Natives of other countries including India	1,275	709	472	452
Total	1,639	1,262	1,269	1,431

The emigration of many natives of other Colonies who had been attracted to Castries by the military works and left the Island on the abandonment of St. Lucia as a military station, accounts for the large fall that appears in the admission of patients not belonging to the Colony.

Dr. King observes: "A bad type of malaria is common in returned (Panama) Canal labourers, who not infrequently have ankylostoma as well. The latter seems to be universal in returned Cayenne gold diggers."

Of the strangers treated, 21 were from Europe or Canada. Excluding these it would appear that the Government maintained 1,761 patients in the hospitals and asylums and provided medical aid for 14,444 exclusive of repeats at the dispensaries, a total of 16,205, or nearly 30 per cent. of the whole estimated population of the Island.

(C.) OUT-DOOR RELIEF OF PAUPERS.

The number of persons in receipt of outdoor relief on the 31st December, 1906, was 200.

The expenditure amounted to £532 11s. 9d. including £131 10s. 10d. for pauper burials.

(D.) SANITARY.

Considerable attention was paid to the improvement of sanitary matters in the towns and villages, and to the destruction of breeding places of mosquitoes.

The police are charged with the duty of enforcing the sanitary regulations of the Board of Health, but as they were found to possess no special training for this purpose, instructions were issued for the non-commissioned officer in charge of each station to apply to the medical officer for advice and assistance, and the Health Officer was good enough to undertake the special training of a selected European non-commissioned officer whose services could be made available in any part of the Colony where they may be needed.

(E.) SAVINGS BANKS.

The principal bank is in Castries, and is managed by the Treasurer of the Colony. There are four district branches in different parts of the Island.

The following statement shows the transactions of the bank for the five years ended the 31st December, 1906:—

Year.	Total number of depositors on 31st December of each year.	Total deposits inclusive of Interest.	Total Withdrawals.	Amount on deposit at the end of each year.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1902	1,590	20,365 12 6	17,696 8 6	15,956 18 3
1903	1,584	18,338 16 7	17,084 5 11	17,211 8 11
1904	1,642	18,990 15 5	20,568 7 1	15,633 17 3
1905	1,231	15,025 16 3	16,285 13 7	14,373 19 11
1906	1,584	13,750 12 6	13,397 7 1	14,727 5 4

Investments through the Crown Agents on account of the Savings Bank on the 31st December amounted to £13,416 14s. 11d. The interest derived from the investments was £461 13s. 3d.

The working account of the bank showed a revenue of £479 12s., and an expenditure of £384 16s. 4d. for interest paid or credited to depositors. The balance of £94 15s. 8d. was transferred to general revenue.

(F.) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

There are 13 Friendly Societies, being one in excess of the previous year. The total number of members on the rolls on 31st December was 1,114, as against 1,247 in 1905.

	£	s.	d.
The aggregate balance at 31st December, 1905, was ...	933	14	6
Total receipts in 1906 ...	1,442	7	3½
	£2,376	1	9½

The disbursements during the year were:—

Sick benefits ...	525	9	7½
Funeral claims ...	166	5	0
Working expenses ...	431	19	3
Payment for regalias ...	23	4	0
Loans written off ...	10	12	7
Payments to withdrawing members ...	48	4	5½
	1,205	14	11

Balance at 31st December, 1906 ... £1,170 6 10½

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The strength of the force on the 31st December was one officer and 70 non-commissioned officers and men, being two short of the authorized number.

Twenty-two men joined the force during the year, while nineteen resigned, four were dismissed, and one died. The canal works at Colon attracted many of the men who left the service in the hope of bettering their fortunes there.

There were 1,088 summary prosecutions and 29 indictable cases taken up by the police during the year, also 76 arrests made by the police and Town Board constables in Castries for breaches of Town Board bylaws, which were prosecuted by the Town Board authority, and 48 arrests prosecuted as private cases. Eighty-three per cent. of the cases resulted in convictions.

The police were for the first time entrusted with the duty of summoning and arresting road tax defaulters. This duty had hitherto been performed by bailiffs selected for the purpose, but the result was not satisfactory, and on the 2nd February regulations were made under the Road Tax Ordinance, 1905, transferring the responsibility to the police. 3,051 summonses were served and 1,796 warrants were executed, thus greatly increasing the work of the police department and reducing the costs to defaulters from 7s. to 2s., and making it easier for the people to pay. The result was a better collection of the current taxes and the recovery of £284 10s. of arrears.

The force was armed early in April after the departure of the military, and has since undergone a course of training under the supervision of the staff officer of the Windward Islands. An inspection was held by Brigadier-General Caulfield on the 27th April, very shortly after the commencement of the course.

(B.) PRISONS.

At the commencement of the year there were 48 prisoners in the Royal Gaol—38 males and 10 females.

The number of committals during the year was 642, 445 being adult males, 178 adult females, and 19 juveniles.

—	1905.	1906.
For Statutory Offences ...	301	387
„ Non-payment of Road Tax	80	193
„ Military Offences ...	13	—
„ Safe custody, trial, &c. ...	166	62
	560	642

The convictions from the Royal Court fell to 14, as against 29 in 1905.

The daily average number of prisoners in custody was 55·49, not taking into account the long-sentence St. Lucia prisoners who are undergoing their sentences in the Grenada Prison, the daily average of whom was 19·28. The corrected daily average for St. Lucia would be 74·77, as against a total of 75·65 in 1905.

The labour of the prisoners during the year is valued at £596 4s. 9d., and the profits of the Prison Manufacturing Account amounted to £76 19s. 7d.

The expenditure on the prison was £1,696 9s. 10d., of which £251 19s. 1d. was for the maintenance of St. Lucia prisoners at Grenada. The cost of the prison establishment and of the maintenance of prisoners was £1,447 11s. 5d., the balance being made up of sums expended in repairing damage caused to the buildings by the earthquake of 16th February, 1906, in erecting a work shed, in improving ventilation, and in general repairs.

The daily average on the sick list was 1·85. One death occurred in the prison.

The convictions of natives of St. Lucia increased to 53 per cent., as against an average for the past five years of 43·8, natives of other places contributing 47 per cent. to the prison population.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following figures summarise the criminal statistics for the past five years:—

—	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Offences reported	2,790	1,942	2,032	1,595	1,706
Summary convictions—					
For offences against the person	333	255	355	405	220
" prædial larceny	48	28	29	60	37
" offences against property ...	133	77	124	226	77
" other offences	1,430	877	1,059	904	1,126
Convictions by the Superior Court—					
Child murder	—	—	—	1	—
For offences against the person	6	12	17	3	2
" " " property	17	11	13	23	14
" other offences	1	2	2	5	1

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The estimated total population on the 31st December, according to the returns of the Registrar-General, was 54,073, an increase of 684 during the year, and was composed of 25,997 males and 28,076 females.

The birth-rate of the year was 31·9 per thousand, as compared with 35·2 per thousand in 1905; and the death-rate 19 per thousand, compared with 21·8 per thousand in 1905. The number of births was 1,702, and of deaths 1,018.

The population by the Census of 1901 was 49,883. The natural increase by excess of births over deaths from the date of the Census to the 31st December, 1906, has been approximately 4,190. No deduction is made of persons who have left the island since the withdrawal of the garrison in 1905, and since the Panama Canal works were started. The estimate of the present population appears, therefore, to be subject to modification.

The number of marriages during the year was 352, as compared with 340 in the previous year.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

Epidemics of influenza and malarial fever followed each other at Vieux Fort, but otherwise the public health was normal.

(C.) CLIMATE.

The rainfall for the year at different stations was:—

	Inches.
At Botanic Station, Castries	81·84
Agricultural School, near Castries ...	88·15
Rivière Dorée	48·95
Anse la Raye	100·47
Soufrière	90·26
Errard	97·99
	507·66
Mean for six Stations	84·61

The absolute maximum temperature registered during 1906 was 91° on 3rd May, and the absolute minimum temperature 60° on 5th January. The mean monthly temperature for the year was 78·0°. The mean barometrical pressure for the year was 29·998 inches at 10 feet above mean sea-level.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) POST OFFICE.

The revenue of the Department was £1,330 3s. 11*d.*, of which £990 11s. 7*d.* was received from letters, post cards, &c., £206 5s. 7*d.* from sales of stamps to collectors, and £133 6s. 9*d.* from commissions on postal and money orders.

The expenditure was £1,013 19s. 2*d.*, and the surplus of revenue over expenditure was, therefore, £316 4s. 9*d.* No portion of the subsidy of the coastal steamer which carries mails to and from the outports is, however, charged against the Post Office:—

The total number of letters and post cards dealt with was—						Number.	Total.
Foreign sent	...	...	...	...	...	103,294	
Foreign received	...	...	...	...	...	103,289	
							206,583
Inland	...	...	...	...	...	—	84,190
							290,773
The number last year was	...	...	...	...	...	—	341,360
A net decrease of	...	...	...	...	...	—	50,587
Newspapers and book packets sent	...	...	...	...	...	10,354	
Newspapers and book packets received	...	...	...	...	...	65,807	
							76,161
Inland	...	...	...	...	...	—	17,404
							93,565
The number last year was	...	...	...	...	...	—	123,962
A net decrease of	...	...	...	...	...	—	30,397
Parcels sent	...	...	...	...	...	399	
Parcels received	...	...	...	...	...	1,877	
							2,276
The number last year was	...	...	...	...	...	—	3,446
A net decrease of	...	...	...	...	...	—	1,170

The number of registered articles sent was 3,920, and the number received 3,903. The number of insured letters sent was 27, and the number received 21. 6,100 letters were dealt with in the Returned Letter Branch, of which 1,704 were returned to the countries of origin, and 4,396 to the writers.

The money orders issued amounted to £7,488, and the orders issued elsewhere and paid here £2,088. British postal orders were sold to the amount of £1,310, and paid to the amount of £415.

The inland postal orders issued only amounted to £37 14s.

In August last a contract was made between the Crown Agents and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for a mail service between certain of the West Indian Colonies. The

itinerary provided for a service every four weeks between St. Lucia, Barbados, Dominica, and other Northern Islands. A provisional fortnightly service was also provided for by the S.S. "Yare." Towards the end of the year, however, the mails from Europe had to be brought from Barbados by chance opportunities involving delay in their receipt.

(B.) TELEPHONES.

The system consists of 112½ miles of trunk line, 54½ miles of branch lines, or a total of 167½ miles.

The lines were maintained in good working order throughout the year, and a sum of £218 16s. was expended on reconstruction and improvements.

On 31st December there were 110 subscribers, as compared with 111 in 1905.

The receipts were £564 17s. 11d., being £13 12s. 11d. more than in 1905, and the expenditure £1,072 13s. 3d., or £507 15s. 4d. in excess of the revenue.

The expenditure included £500 paid for the purchase of the military telephone system and stores, which were taken over by the Government on the removal of the troops.

IX.—GENERAL REMARKS.

Changes in the Civil Establishment included the departure of Sir R. B. Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., who had been Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Windward Islands since November, 1900. Having completed his term of office, he left the Government on 14th November on three months' leave prior to his retirement. Pending the appointment of his successor, Mr. Cork, C.M.G., the Administrator of St. Lucia, by virtue of his dormant Commission, assumed the Government as Acting Governor.

Other important changes were the appointment on 5th April of Mr. P. M. C. Sheriff as Chief Justice in succession to Mr. J. B. Walker, who had been transferred to Grenada; and the resignation on 31st October of Mr. Edward Bateson, the Attorney-General, a successor to whom had not been appointed by the end of the year.

A severe earthquake occurred on the 16th February, 1906, which did considerable damage to property. The shock was felt all over the Colony but with greater violence in Castries and in the northern part of the island, where the seat of the disturbance appeared to be chiefly located. All the public buildings in the town sustained injury to some extent. The walls of the Treasury premises were badly cracked and had to be shored up until they could be repaired. The Male Prison was

seriously damaged and the Keeper's quarters rendered uninhabitable. The churches and many private dwellings received injury, and in some cases broken walls had to be taken down and rebuilt, while much loss occurred in the shops from the destruction of bottled liquor, crockery, and other breakable goods that were thrown from shelves and destroyed. Fortunately no person received any hurt from falling *débris*. The shock took place early in the afternoon, which probably saved the chance of further loss by fire which might have happened had the earthquake occurred in the night-time.

The Colony having been happily free from such occurrences for a great number of years, the event produced much alarm, which lasted for some while owing to the recurrence of further disquieting shocks, though of no severity, that continued at intervals. These mild disturbances were not felt, as a rule, beyond the quarter extending from Castries to Gros Islet, and they gradually diminished in frequency as time passed.

While the removal of the Imperial garrison has thrown back the Colony on its own natural resources, the island is fortunate in possessing many opportunities in favour of great future prosperity. Only a small portion of the available land is at present under cultivation, and there are large areas in untouched localities suitable for the production of every description of economic produce that can be grown in the West Indies. There is plenty of land suitable for growing cocoa, and large areas that are well adapted for the lime industry as well as for rubber planting, while the lower lands, in many directions lying near the sea coast, offer favourable selections for the Sea Island cotton industry.

It is specially characteristic of St. Lucia that the island possesses suitable soils within easy access in different parts that are favourable to extensive cultivation of various products. From this point of view it has exceptional capabilities for agricultural development as its resources are not limited to any particular industry.

Apart from the sugar lands occupied by the four central factories, there are large tracts that can be taken up for cocoa or limes or any other tropical-paying cultivation. The land is comparatively cheap, and in these respects it may be said that St. Lucia offers many exceptional advantages to settlers of moderate capital.

There is a daily steam coastal service on the leeward side of the island between Castries and Vieux Fort at the extreme southern end, with several intermediate places of call. This provides a quick and easy means of communication and transport, and brings the out-districts in that extensive quarter into close touch with Castries.

Another factor in the prosperity of the Colony is the importance of Castries as a coaling station. The Port affords quick

facilities for supplying bunker coal and fresh water alongside the wharves. The shipping statistics indicate an increasing trade. 617 steamers called during the year, and 83,733 tons of bunker coal were taken.

The fine military buildings in the neighbourhood of Castries that are now no longer required for the purposes for which they were built, offer an excellent opportunity for the establishment of hotel accommodation for tourists to the West Indies. The new and commodious brick buildings at the Vigie are especially well adapted for such a project. The Vigie is a narrow promontory jutting out from Castries, and forms the northern arm of the harbour. The climate is dry and cool and extremely healthy. There is excellent sea-bathing, and the town of Castries is within a few minutes' reach by boat across the harbour or by easy carriage road. Enterprise in this direction, if well advertised in Canada and in the United States, would probably have most successful results.

The mail steamers of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company from England, the steamers of the Quebec Steamship Company from New York, and the Pickford and Black steamers from Canada, call regularly, while the frequent visits of other steam vessels place the Colony in constant communication with the outer world.

E. LABORDE,

Administrator (Acting).

24th October, 1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's
Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained
from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"
524	Jamaica	1905-1906
525	Uganda	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906-1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	"
535	Malta	1906-1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906-1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
539	Leeward Islands	"
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906-1907
543	Bahamas	"
544	Barbados	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago	"
546	Grenada	"
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
549	Jamaica	1906-1907
550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"
552	British Honduras	1906

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904-5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate	Report on Kenia Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1905-6.
43	Caicos Islands	Fibre.
44	East Africa Protectorate	Survey Department.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 579.

ST. LUCIA.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 553.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1908.



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1908.

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No. 579.

ST. LUCIA.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 553.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

St. Lucia,

22nd August, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the annual report on the Blue Book of St. Lucia for the year 1907.

I have, &c.,

P. C. CORK,

Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable

Earl of Crewe, K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1907.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The finances are recovering from the condition of stringency in which they were involved by the sudden stoppage of military works three years ago and the subsequent abandonment of Castries as a garrison town. The ordinary revenue, which had been barely sufficient during the previous two years to meet an expenditure restricted severely within the narrowest limits, increased during the past year, in response partly to additional taxation, but in large measure to greater activity in trade and to agricultural prosperity, by over 14 per cent., not only covering the expenditure for the year, including heavy extraordinary expenses on account of a strike accompanied by disturbances, and a considerable outlay on a new road, but adding materially to the surplus. The surplus, which is nearly all invested in stocks or held in cash, now amounts to £25,400, with £2,600 invested as an insurance on public buildings, making the true surplus £28,000. The last contribution of £2,100 has been made for Interest and Sinking Fund on the Central Factory Loan of £30,000 incurred in 1875, thus securing a permanent relief on account of Debt Charges. The financial position of the Government has been greatly strengthened and may be considered satisfactory.

Tables are appended showing the Revenue and Expenditure for 1907-8 as compared with that for 1906-7.

REVENUE.

Comparative Statement of the Revenue of the Colony for the years 1906-7 and 1907-8.

Heads of Revenue.	Actual Revenue 1906-7.			Actual Revenue 1907-8.		
	£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Customs	25,521	9	4	32,621	14	10
2. Port, Harbour, &c., Dues	4,866	11	0	7,086	8	10
3. Licences, Excise, &c., and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	17,764	12	1	18,955	18	9
4. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Re-im- bursements in Aid ...	3,710	8	2	3,510	9	4
5. Post Office	1,113	2	8	1,118	15	6
6. Telephone	606	11	2	625	19	5
7. Rent of Government Property	847	3	5	846	6	1
8. Miscellaneous	488	2	4	275	1	3
9. Interest	2,574	11	2	1,398	16	9
10. Repayment of Loans ...	447	10	0	175	10	0
	57,940	1	4	66,615	0	9
Carried forward						

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Brought forward...	57,940	1	4	...	66,615	0	9
11. Part proceeds of Sale of Reclaimed Lands ...	388	19	0	...	21	0	4
— Balance transferred from Immigration Fund ...	840	1	3	...	—		
12. Imperial Department of Agriculture — Grants-in-Aid ...	843	0	0	...	715	0	0
Total	£60,012	1	7	...	£67,351	1	1

The ordinary Revenue was £8,675 in excess of that of 1906-7, and the extraordinary Revenue £1,336 less.

The following statement shows the number of licences issued for the sale of intoxicating liquors during the year ended 31st March, 1908, and the revenue derived therefrom.

Licence.	Rate of Licence.	Number of licences issued quarterly.				Revenue
		April to June.	July to September.	October to December.	January to March.	
Wholesale liquor ..	£20 yearly ..	2	2	2	2	£ 40 0 0
Retail Spirit ..	Castries £15 quarterly ..	46	44	44	44	1,454 0 0
	Soufriere £9 " ..					
	Other places £5 " ..					
Bottle	£40 yearly ..	2	2	2	2	80 0 0
Refreshment house ..	£30 " ..	3	3	3	2	82 10 0
Hotel	£8 " ..	1	1	1	1	6 0 0
Occasional	Rate fixed by Governor in Council in each case.	1	—	1	3	3 10 0
						1,666 0 0

EXPENDITURE.

Comparative Statement of the Expenditure of the Colony for the years 1906-7 and 1907-8.

Heads of Expenditure.	Actual Expenditure 1906-7.		Actual Expenditure 1907-8.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1. Charges on Account of Public Debt ...	11,421	19 4	11,514	10 0
2. Pensions ...	2,150	14 3	1,877	12 7
3. Governor and Legislature ...	2,917	9 11	2,983	2 1
4. Treasury, Customs, and Inland Revenue Department ...	3,362	6 10	3,439	19 3
5. Post Office ...	1,021	18 11	1,178	16 11
Carried forward ...	20,874	9 3	20,994	0 10

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	20,874	9	3	20,994	0	10
6. Port and Marine ...	823	17	3	960	9	3
7. Audit	513	2	2	551	17	9
8. Legal	4,699	17	5	4,227	16	3
— Local Forces ...	444	15	7	466	6	7
9. Police	4,287	3	1	4,934	13	10
10. Prisons	1,432	10	3	2,039	15	9
11. Medical	2,576	7	2	2,918	7	5
12. Hospitals and Asylums	2,913	4	1	3,018	4	0
13. Charitable	515	13	7	553	5	10
14. Education	4,343	9	9	4,326	17	11
15. Ecclesiastical ...	1,600	0	0	1,600	0	0
16. Agriculture (from local funds)	770	4	6	946	3	7
17. Miscellaneous ...	2,531	9	4	2,649	3	8
18. Colonial Engineer's Department	2,883	9	6	2,595	9	7
19. Public Works Recurrent	7,015	0	0	6,684	1	0
	58,224	12	11	59,466	13	3
20. Public Works Extraordinary	1,343	2	7	4,685	10	8
	59,567	15	6	64,152	3	11
16A. Agriculture (from Imperial Funds)	726	3	4	687	11	7
Total	£60,293	18	10	£64,839	15	6

The Expenditure was £4,189 more than was estimated for. The excess is due to considerable expenditure having been incurred on new roads for the development of the Colony voted after the Estimates were passed; also to disturbances having occurred after a labour strike; and to new arrangements having been made with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the carriage of mails involving additional cost.

The Revenue and Expenditure of the previous five years were as follows:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1901-2 ...	£67,365	£67,486
1902-3 ...	72,193	69,408
1903-4 ...	66,009	70,692
1904-5 ...	69,273	65,508
1905-6 ...	61,877	62,521
1906-7 ...	60,012	60,294

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The following is a statement of the Assets and Liabilities of the Colony at 31st March, 1908:—

Liabilities.		Assets.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Deposits:			
Savings Bank Depositors ...	18,996 3 11	Cash:	
" Interest on Investments ...	97 12 8	In hands of the Treasurer ...	342 8 11
Police Recreation Fund ...	20 12 9	Colonial Bank Current Account ...	1,259 12 11
Sale of Workyard Lots ...	588 8 6	Colonial Bank Deposit Account:—	
Interest, Baron Trust Money ...	306 12 10	On a/c of Gen. Revenue £500	
Sundry deposits Account ...	34 2 0	" Savings Bank £2,500	3,000 0 0
	20,043 12 8		4,602 1 10
Advances:		Investments:	
From Govt. of Grenada ...	491 2 8	On account of Savings Bank ...	14,416 14 11
" of St. Vincent ...	60 13 11	Public Buildings	2,668 1 8
" Crown Agents against Bills maturing... ..	3,500 0 0	Insurance Fund	20,790 10 8
	4,052 1 7	Surplus Funds ...	
Special Funds:		Loans:	
Towns and Villages	1,063 19 1	Castries Town Bd. for Recreation Ground	900 0 0
Castries Town Board	363 12 11	" Cemetery	571 14 5
Imperial Grant-in-aid of Agriculture	211 9 0		
Land Sales Fund ...	1,932 4 6	Advances:	
	3,571 5 6	Personal and other advances ...	201 0 9
Total Liabilities ...	27,666 19 9	Post Office Account ...	653 0 0
Surplus Assets:		Crown Agents Current Account	451 10 10
Surplus and Deficit Account	25,399 13 8		
Public Buildings Insurance Fund	2,668 1 8	Drafts and Remittances Account	...
	28,067 15 4		10,480 0 0
	55,734 15 1		55,734 15 1

NOTE.—The Public Debt of the Colony at 31st March, 1908, stood at £153,729 11*s.*, and the accumulated Sinking Fund towards its redemption at £14,611 7*s.* 5*d.*

SURPLUS FUNDS.

The surplus funds of the Colony on 31st March, 1908, amounted to £28,067 15s. 4d., including the sum of £2,668 1s. 8d., the amount of contributions at the rate of £300 a year set aside from general revenue as an insurance fund on public buildings. The investments on Surplus account amounted at the close of the year to £22,262 5s. 1d. and on Insurance Account to £2,668 1s. 8d., making a total of £24,930 6s. 9d.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt at the 31st March, 1908, amounted to £153,729 11s. 0d., apportioned as follows:—

Colony's share.

	£	s.	d.
Castries Harbour Loan ...	55,150	0	0
Central Factory ...	9,300	0	0
Public Works Loan ...	50,579	11	0
Water Works ...	12,000	0	0
Immigration ...	9,700	0	0
	136,729	11	0
Castries Town Board share...	17,000	0	0
	£153,729	11	0

The sinking fund amounted to £14,611 7s. 5d.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

Besides Castries, the chief town, there are nine towns and villages in the Island. The following table shows their order of importance as regards population according to the Census of 1901, and the revenue and expenditure in 1907 and the balance to the credit of each town or village fund at the close of the year:—

Name of Town or Village.	Population.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Credit Balance.
		£	£	£
Castries ...	7,910	5,470	5,404	364
Soufriere ...	2,394	529	532	138
Vieux Fort ...	1,619	177	183	102
Dennerly... ..	1,072	126	119	262
Anse la Raye ...	885	70	83	67
Laborie ...	808	69	84	34
Gros Islet ...	705	103	99	191
Micoud ...	577	74	87	30
Canaries... ..	522	38	32	128
Choiseul... ..	409	45	13	112
Total ...	16,901	6,701	6,636	1,428

The rates were, in Castries and Soufriere, 8 per cent. on assessed rental value of houses and 2 per cent. for water rate. In Vieux Fort, Gros Islet, and Canaries the rate was 6 per cent. on the assessed rental value of houses, and in the other villages the rate was 5 per cent.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS.

The value of imports in 1907 was £310,309 as compared with £242,469 in 1906. Of these £80,603 in value were received from the United Kingdom, £33,982 from British Colonies, and £195,724 from Foreign Countries, a falling off of £7,240 in imports from the United Kingdom and £96 from British Colonies and an increase of £75,175 from Foreign Countries.

The importations of coal amounted to 111,232 tons, of the value of £137,200, as compared with 76,304½ tons in 1906, of the value of £94,056.

All the coal imported in 1907 came from the United States, and this accounts in great measure for the increase of foreign trade.

The imports are divided into the following classes:—

	£
Class I.—Live Animals, Food and Drink Supplies, and Narcotics ...	67,121
Class II.—Raw Materials ...	152,544
Class III.—Manufactured Articles ...	78,121
Class IV.—Coin and Bullion ...	12,523

As compared with 1906, Class I. decreased by £20,581, showing, I think, that the Island produced more of its own food-stuffs. Classes II. and III. increased by £40,976 and £10,610 respectively, indicating an increase of business, and Class IV. by £6,656, being the additional amount of coin which was probably needed for coping with the increased business.

EXPORTS.

The value of the exports in 1907 was £264,401, as compared with £220,313 in the preceding year. £109,407 represented the produce and manufacture of the Colony, and £154,994 the produce of other countries, of which £142,381 was for bunker coal exported.

The exports are divided into the following classes:—

Class I.—Live Animals, Food and Drink			
Supplies, and Narcotics ...			104,032
Class II.—Raw Materials ...			151,453
Class III.—Manufactured Articles ...			1,776
Class IV.—Coin and Bullion ...			7,140

Class I. increased by £3,931, due to the export of cocoa reaching 1,719,700 lbs. or 140,500 lbs. more in quantity than in 1906, and £47,292, or £4,992 more in value. The sugar industry barely maintained the position regained in 1906, and there was a falling off in rum, live animals, hides, pimento sticks, &c., partly counterbalanced by an increase in the sale of logwood. Class II. increased by £37,288, the sale of coal having been the largest ever effected in any one year. Class III. decreased by £261, and Class IV. increased by £3,130.

SHIPPING.

The number of steamers that entered was 716, with an aggregate tonnage of 1,305,957 tons. The number that cleared was 714, and their tonnage 1,301,794 tons.

In addition, 27 ships-of-war and 4 yachts visited the port, as against 13 and 4 in 1906.

The year was an unusually busy one for shipping, and a record has been established in the number of ships and in tonnage.

So far as the information accessible to me indicates, the Port of Castries appears to do the most considerable coaling business in the West Indies, the exports during the year being 118,503 tons, valued at £142,381.

The following return shows the number of vessels, British and foreign, that entered and cleared, and the aggregate tonnage during the past five years:—

Vessels Entered.

Year.	British.				Foreign.			
	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1903 ...	354	542,095	269	7,470	66	84,391	152	5,212
1904 ...	373	544,895	231	7,349	77	98,544	45	2,899
1905 ...	452	748,494	207	6,941	99	155,846	43	4,774
1906 ...	534	931,449	246	7,310	83	124,024	38	3,749
1907 ...	615	1,169,037	245	9,772	101	136,920	30	2,089

Vessels Cleared.

Year.	British.				Foreign.			
	Steamers.		Sailing Vessels		Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1903 ...	352	540,122	280	7,664	66	84,391	150	4,564
1904 ...	374	546,795	237	7,537	77	98,544	45	2,869
1905 ...	452	748,494	207	6,941	98	153,905	43	4,774
1906 ...	534	931,449	252	7,541	84	125,965	37	3,696
1907 ...	614	1,166,991	216	7,606	100	134,803	30	2,089

MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines in the Colony.

The only manufactures of any consequence are sugar and rum. There are four well-equipped central sugar factories. The exported produce amounted to 5,302 tons of crystallized sugar, 62 tons of Muscovado, and 3,700 bags of Molascuit or food for stock made from sugar-cane. Of this output Canada took 833 tons of Usine sugar, and the rest of the produce went to London markets, except 1,725 bags Molascuit, which went to France.

There are two rum distilleries. Rum is produced principally for local consumption, and as the consumption has revived, the quantity distilled keeps pace with the revival, as the following table indicates:—

Year.	Quantity.		
	distilled.	Consumed.	Exported.
	Galls.	Galls.	Galls.
1903 ...	72,470	53,558	16,286
1904 ...	57,429	52,562	5,684
1905 ...	56,150	50,337	8,655
1906 ...	49,553	46,950	6,319
1907 ...	57,213	51,453	3,652

The export of rum is still steadily declining.

There is a number of boats, principally small canoes, engaged in fishing, and fresh fish in abundance can be obtained for local consumption all the year round. There is no attempt at preserving fish for exportation.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

The sugar industry still continues to hold the first place in the agricultural business of the Colony, and has fairly maintained the position it assumed in 1906. The decline in the

quantity of rum exported has been counterbalanced by an increase in the amount of Molascuit (stock food). The total value of sugar, rum and other products of the sugar-cane exported in 1907 was £54,511.

Cocoa is next in importance, the value being £47,292.

The wood industry comes third with a total of £4,875, there having been an increase of £2,000 in the value of logwood exported, and cedar, appearing as a new item, yielding £363.

Limes and lime juice appear for the second time on the list of exports. The total is only £192, but thousands of lime plants have been set out during the past two or three years, and in five or six years' time it is probable that an important export trade may be developed. A factory has been erected on the Fond Devaux Estate on modern lines for the concentration of lime juice.

The value of honey exported is slightly less than in 1906, but the care of bees has been taken up by a few intelligent individuals, and is being taught at the Agricultural School and at some of the Elementary Schools in the country districts, and there seems every reason to believe that it will develop into a not unimportant minor industry.

The Government and the Agricultural Society have been working together to induce planters to turn their attention to rubber, and the Agricultural Superintendent raised large quantities of *Castilloa Elastica* seedlings, and the Agricultural Society imported from Ceylon Para rubber plants and seeds, which were taken charge of at the Experiment Station and cared for till in a condition to set out. The planters have been slow to respond, and only about 2,000 *Castilloa* plants have been taken. The plants of the Para rubber had not been distributed at the end of the year. Reporting on *Castilloa*, the Agricultural Superintendent indicates that the trees seed freely, and the seeds are dropped about by birds feeding on the pulp. He adds that several young trees are to be found near the Station grown from seeds dropped in this manner, "and in this uncultivated state the young plants are healthy and as promising as one could wish for under cultivation: and this tends to support the opinion already formed from observations on cultivated plants that this rubber tree will thrive exceedingly well in St. Lucia if due consideration is given to the selection of suitable soil and locality."

Mr. Sands, the Agricultural Superintendent of St. Vincent, was sent by the Commissioner of Agriculture to report on the lands in St. Lucia suitable for the growth of Sea Island cotton, and he was able to point out a number of places along the coast which were favourable. His report was published in August, 1907, too late in the year for planting operations, and only two or three trial plots were put in. A plot of an acre and a half was put in at the Agricultural School, which yielded 707 lbs. of seed cotton. The Agricultural Superin-

tendent states: "The percentage of clean lint was 24.3 (172½ lbs.) and of stained lint 2.2 (16 lbs.), the seed being 72.8 and the loss .7. These results show a yield of 134.6 lbs. of lint per acre." At 1s. 4d. a lb., which would seem a moderate valuation, the yield of lint per acre ought to be worth £9, and I gather from this experiment that with careful cultivation in good soil in St. Lucia a cotton planter may reasonably anticipate the gross value of his crop to range from £8 to £10 per acre. The amount of profit which it may be possible to count on would depend so greatly on the skill of the manager and on the labour supply obtainable that no reliable estimate can be made without trials on a commercial scale, and for this purpose it would be advisable that labour-saving implements such as ploughs, harrows, and horse hoes or cultivators should be employed.

These figures are based on what seems to be a low yield of cotton, as a plot of half an acre grown at the Station in 1904 yielded at the rate of 247 lbs. of lint per acre, or 84 per cent. more than was obtained in 1907.

Agriculture appears to be engaging more attention than formerly. The area planted in seedling canes on sugar estates is increasing, and these appear to give a larger yield and to resist disease better than the old stock. The Agricultural Department's efforts to spread knowledge as to the cultivation, drainage, and manuring of cocoa seem to be bearing fruit, and there are many more cocoa fields showing signs of care being bestowed on them than was the case two years ago, though much still remains to be done before the exports will be commensurate with the area planted.

Generally a more hopeful tone prevails as regards agricultural pursuits, and the thanks of the Government are due to all those who by example or precept have given encouragement to the movement. Hitherto the struggle has been to overcome the *vis inertiae*: the first clear signs of motion appear now to be indicated, and it is to be hoped that a sustained effort will be made to give momentum to the study and practice of agriculture on intelligent lines, so as to make the best of the natural wealth of the Colony.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

The Botanic Station and Agricultural School and Experiment Station were maintained in efficient working order.

There was a further great increase in the demand for economic plants for local planting. The total number of plants distributed was 74,644, or nearly 10,000 in excess of 1906, which till then was the highest recorded in the history of the Station. Limes headed the list with 56,425 plants, making a total of 105,475 for the past three years, and large numbers of plants have been grown in private nurseries. On

the other hand *Castilloa* rubber plants issued to local applicants decreased from 6,967 in 1906 to 2,000 in 1907, and there being no further local demand, 5,000 were sent to Martinique and 4,000 seeds to Demerara. The following extract from the Agricultural Superintendent's report will show the result of the effort to introduce Para rubber plants from Ceylon:—

“Ten packages, containing 2,059 seeds of *Hevea brasiliensis* were received in October from the Royal Botanic Gardens, of Peradeniya, Ceylon, being kindly supplied by that Department at the cost of postage, in consideration of the poor results obtained from the consignment supplied in wardian cases and reported on last year. The seeds were packed for transit in charcoal dust, in tins containing from 130-400 seeds each. Of the 2,059 seeds received 947, or about 46 per cent., germinated. Observations on the condition of the packages on arrival indicate that the best results were obtained from those tins in which, on arrival, the charcoal dust was dry. The charcoal was probably slightly damp when packed, in accordance with our suggestion, but dried in transit, the tins not being hermetically sealed.

“The contents of one tin of 400 seeds were mildewed and rotten, the charcoal being in a damp and sweaty condition. In another tin of similar condition only 4 out of 128 seeds germinated. In other tins in which the charcoal was dry on arrival as high as 88 per cent. of the seeds germinated.

“The seeds were probably about two months on the passage from Ceylon to St. Lucia.

“On January 27 the Agricultural Superintendent reported that 850 plants in bamboo pots were ready for distribution.”

The total expenditure on the Botanic Station and connexions, excluding building repairs, was £633 18s. 4d. The sale of plants, &c., realised £55 16s. 0d.

The Agricultural Instructor resigned during the year, and the services of an officer to replace him were not secured for several months, so that the Agricultural Department was short-handed during a portion of the year.

Agricultural School.

The average number of pupils maintained during the year was 20.6. Eight pupils were admitted and three discharged, two to take up situations obtained for them, and one to work on his father's property.

All the ground provisions required for the institution were produced on the premises, and a large number of economic plants was raised for distribution. The routine work associated with the training of the pupils in agricultural science and practice received careful attention.

The half-yearly examinations of the pupils show that good progress was made in their school and field work. The Medical Officer's report on the health of the boys and the sanitary condition of the institution was very satisfactory. The expenditure on the Agricultural School and Experiment Station was £899 16s. 10*d.* The receipts from the sale of plants and produce amounted to £71 2s. 11*d.*, and of provisions used in the School £42 7s. 10*d.*, a total of £113 10s. 9*d.*

CROWN LANDS AND SURVEYS.

During the year 95 applications were received for 995 acres. On 36 of these applications the usual survey fee and deposit were paid. 40 surveys were executed. The acreage alienated amounted to 342 acres and 22 perches, besides one village lot. Grants to the number of 66 were issued, and at the close of the year there were 83 further grants prepared and awaiting delivery.

The Vve. Girardin Estate, comprising 179 acres 2 roods and 27 perches, was escheated and two other estates, of 96 acres and 21 perches and 215 acres and 29 perches, respectively, put up for escheat.

The Land Sales Fund had at credit on 31st March last a sum of £1,932.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The ordinary expenditure on Public Works amounted to £9,862 for the maintenance of roads, bridges, public buildings, telephones, harbour works, jetties, &c. Much improvement has been effected on the roads by the erection of small bridges and culverts, by draining with concrete pipes, and by forming and metalling. Expenditure was also incurred under the head of Public Works Extraordinary for bridging the Canelles River and completing on a modified plan the bridge over the Fond River which had been partly erected and condemned some years ago. The scheme for opening up parts of the interior of the island not hitherto served by public roads was also started, work having been commenced on the road intended to open up and connect the Anse la Raye, Millet, and Roseau Valleys, and a survey of the route for the proposed road in the Canaries Valley was made.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twelve Ordinances were passed during the year, two of which related to taxation—increasing the Customs tariff on a few articles, and imposing a licence duty on animals, wheels, and guns. Two related to the formation of a Volunteer Force and a Reserve. One provided for licensing purchasers of old metal, in order to check theft. One transferred to General Revenues the assets and liabilities of the Immigration Fund,

East Indian immigration having come to an end. Two were the ordinary Appropriation Ordinances, and the others dealt with small matters which it is not necessary to specially comment on.

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY.

The general statistics for the year are given in the following table:—

Schools.	No.	Number on Rolls.	Average Attend- ance.	Number Ex- amined.	Govern- ment Grant.
Anglican	3	520	345	490	£ 301
Wesleyan	1	278	132	178	91
East Indian Mission	1	43	27	36	34
Roman Catholic	41	5,875	3,809	4,990	2,866
Total	46	6,716	4,313	5,694	3,292
The figures for 1906 were	44	6,741	3,897	4,982	3,390

An additional sum of £39 was spent on matters connected with primary education, bringing the total to £3,331.

Fifteen out of the twenty-one juvenile schools for boys or boys and girls have school gardens, four are situated in towns or villages where land is not available, leaving two which have not yet started. It is hoped that one at least of these may commence operations in the coming year. £40 has been set aside as bonuses to head teachers who have taken serious interest in the garden work during 1907, and small grants have in other cases been made for purchasing tools or starting bee colonies. It cannot, however, be said that the gardens receive all the attention they deserve, and the new Agricultural Instructor has been directed to devote attention to the matter.

The teaching of elementary tropical hygiene was commenced during the year, with gratifying results in several cases.

A magic lantern was bought for the department, and the Inspector of Schools went round the island giving addresses and demonstrations in the schools. The subject chosen was London, and the Inspector says: "The schoolrooms were everywhere crowded and the children appeared much interested . . . the various pictures, some sixty in number, were thrown one by one on the screen and explained in slow, simple English. This method of illustrated instruction appears very

well suited to a population where reading is uncommon, and capable of useful extension as an auxiliary incentive to the learning of English, which is a *sine qua non* as far as serious instruction in the Colony is concerned."

SECONDARY.

Secondary Education is provided for boys by the St. Mary's College, and for girls by the St. Joseph's Convent. The former school received a Government grant of £400, and the latter one of £50. The total expenditure on these schools was £802 and £680, respectively, the school fees collected being £230 and £270.

There were 51 boys on the roll of St. Mary's College, with 48 in average attendance, and 98 girls at St. Joseph's Convent, with 90 in average attendance.

The boys are prepared for the Cambridge Local Examinations, and the girls for those of the London College of Preceptors. The girls are also taught needlework—plain and fancy, drawing, and painting.

One of the conditions attached to the grant to St. Mary's College is the right to have ten Government scholars educated at the College free of charge. The report on these boys shows work "satisfactory" in seven cases, "moderate" in one, and "poor" in two.

At the examination in December to fill three vacancies, eight candidates presented themselves. The best candidates obtained out of a total of 100 marks, 74, 71 and 67.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

The following statement tabulates the principal statistics relating to the hospitals and asylums of the Colony:—

Institutions.	No. of patients at beginning of year.	No. admitted during 1907.	Daily Average.	Patients discharged.		No. of deaths.	Remaining in Hospital at end o. year.
				Cured.	Relieved.		
Victoria Hospital, Castries	64	1,147	66	678	314	123	49*
Soufrière Hospital ...	—	22	4	13	6	3	—
Vieux Fort Hospital ...	4	47	4	26	9	6	3†
Dennery Hospital ...	—	22	1	15	1	5	—†
Yaws Hospital, Soufrière	34	87	36	55	6	7	53
Poor Asylum, Soufrière	58	72	58	—	39	31	60
Lunatic Asylum, Soufrière	17	21	16	—	1	3	11§

* 47 patients discharged, condition not improved.

† 7 " " " " " "

‡ 1 " " " " " "

§ 22 sent to Grenada Lunatic Asylum, including 2 from Castries. One patient discharged, condition not improved.

DISPENSARIES.

Out-door medical relief is given through the medium of a dispensary in each district, at which a medical officer attends every week.

The number of patients treated during the past two years was as follows:—

Dispensary.	1906.	1907.
Castries	8,007	8,947
Babonneau	88	132
Gros Islet	654	570
Dennery	992	562
Mabouya Valley	—	385
Anse la Raye	655	379
Soufrière	1,245	585
Choiseul	314	200
Vieux Fort	1,481	863
Laborie	490	723
Micoud	518	532
Total	14,444	13,878

OUT-DOOR RELIEF OF PAUPERS.

The number of persons in receipt of out-door relief on the 31st December, 1907, was 182.

The expenditure amounted to £575 11s. 3d., including £203 8s. 9d. for pauper burials.

SANITARY.

Constant vigilance had to be maintained during the year to prevent the introduction of quarantinable diseases, and 253 vessels were boarded by the Health Officer, six of which were fumigated. The presence of yellow fever in certain of the West India Islands and of small-pox or plague in foreign countries from which vessels arrived necessitated great caution. An Isolation Hospital was fitted up and screened, and vigorous measures adopted in Castries for destroying the breeding-places of mosquitoes.

SAVINGS BANKS.

The principal bank is in Castries, and is managed by the Treasurer of the Colony. There are four district branches in different parts of the island.

The following statement shows the transactions of the bank for the five years ended the 31st December, 1907:—

Year.	Total number of depositors on 31st December of each year.	Total deposits inclusive of Interest.	Total withdrawals.	Amount on deposit at the end of each year.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1903 ...	1,584	18,338 16 7	17,084 5 11	17,211 8 11
1904 ...	1,642	18,990 15 5	20,568 7 1	15,633 17 3
1905 ...	1,231	15,025 16 3	16,285 13 7	14,373 19 11
1906 ...	1,584	13,750 12 6	13,397 7 1	14,727 5 4
1907 ...	1,639	15,526 2 0	12,561 9 10	17,691 17 6

Investments through the Crown Agents on account of the Savings Bank on the 31st December amounted to £13,916 14s. 11d.

The working account of the bank showed a revenue of £501 18s. 8d., and an expenditure of £430 1s. 10d. for interest paid or credited to depositors. The balance of £71 16s. 10d. was transferred to general revenue.

-FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

There are 14 Friendly Societies, being one in excess of the previous year. The total number of members on the rolls on 31st December was 1,207, as against 1,114 in 1906.

	£	s.	d.
The aggregate balance at 31st December, 1906, was ...	1,171	0	10½
Total receipts in 1907 ...	1,505	0	10½
	2,676	1	9

The disbursements during the year were:—

Sick benefits ...	£308	6	7
Funeral claims ...	139	18	9
Working expenses ...	411	14	9½
Medicine and Medical attendance ...	204	18	2
Bonuses to Members ...	16	0	0
Payments to withdrawing members ...	28	5	2
	1,109	3	5½

Balance at 31st December, 1907 ...£1,566 18 3½

There was an increase of 89 in the number of members and £395 17s. 5d. in the balance of assets during the year.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

The strength of the force on the 31st December was one officer and 72 non-commissioned officers and men.

Ten extra men were enrolled after the disturbances, but the force has been reduced to its normal strength, as three resigned, three were dismissed, and four were discharged before the end of their probationary service.

There were 1,293 summary prosecutions and 207 indictable cases taken up by the police during the year. The strike disturbances were responsible for 238 of these cases, but in several instances there was more than one charge against the same individual, the number of persons charged being 186.

3,733 road tax summonses were served and 1,558 warrants were executed.

The force, which was armed in April, 1906, after the departure of the garrison, had to undergo a serious trial in April, 1907, when, supervening on a strike of coal-heavers and sugar factory labourers, disturbances occurred in Castries and at three of the factories. The strikers and the mob, who made common cause with them, numbered several thousands, while of the 72 policemen distributed throughout the island only 41 were available in Castries to be used as a military force, and, in order to effect this the men had to be withdrawn from their civil duties on the streets. With the assistance of special constables, who were sworn in and gave invaluable aid in scouting, patrolling, guarding the station, &c., junctions of the different mobs were prevented, and by detaching a force of 20 policemen to operate at different times against them they were dealt with in detail. The arrival of a reinforcement of 100 police and volunteers from Barbados, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Kaye, and 20 from St. Vincent, followed a few days after by H.M.S. "Indefatigable," enabled detachments to be placed in the disturbed areas until the ferment had quieted down and prevented any further trouble. The creditable behaviour of the St. Lucia force and the opportune assistance of the neighbouring Colonies, to whom the gratitude of this Colony is due, prevented the mob from gaining any considerable headway. Some of the police and special constables were badly injured.

PRISONS.

At the commencement of the year there were 49 prisoners in the Royal Gaol—38 males and 11 females.

The number of committals on conviction during the year was 523, 305 being adult males, 194 adult females, and 24 juveniles, the number committed for trial or on remand being 778.

	1906	1907.
For Statutory Offences	387	487
„ Non-payment of Road Tax	193	36
„ Safe custody, trial, &c. ...	62	778
	<u>642</u>	<u>1,301</u>

The convictions from the Royal Court rose to 107 as against 14 in 1906.

The daily average number of prisoners in custody was 82·68 at the Royal Gaol, 21·87 at Grenada, and 6·87 at St. Vincent. The corrected daily average for St. Lucia would be 111·42, as against a total of 74·77 in 1906.

The labour of the prisoners during the year is valued at £740 7s. 3d., and the profits of the Prison Manufacturing Account amounted to £121 4s. 4d.

The expenditure on the Prison was £1,804 11s. 8d., of which £261 16s. 0d. was for the maintenance of St. Lucia prisoners at Grenada and £68 8s. 0d. at St. Vincent. The cost of the Prison Establishment and of the maintenance of prisoners was £1,706 0s. 9d., the balance being made up of sums expended in repairing damage caused to the buildings by the earthquake of 16th February, 1906, in erecting a work-shed, in improving ventilation, and in making temporary provision for the influx of prisoners after the disturbances.

The daily average on the sick list was 1·24. One death occurred in the Victoria Hospital of a prisoner removed there for treatment.

The natives of St. Lucia formed 62 per cent., natives of others places contributing 38 per cent. to the prison population. Of the riot prisoners 44 per cent. were natives of other Colonies. The percentage of old offenders was 48·57.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The following figures summarise the criminal statistics for the past five years:—

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Offences reported	1,942	2,032	1,595	1,706	2,059
Summary convictions—					
For offences against the person ...	255	355	405	220	380
„ prædial larceny	28	29	60	37	37
„ offences against property ...	77	124	226	77	138
„ other offences	877	1,059	904	1,126	950
Convictions by the Superior Court—					
Child murder	—	—	1	—	—
For offences against the person ...	12	17	3	2	10
„ „ „ property	11	13	23	14	27
„ other offences	2	2	5	1	110

The strike disturbances of April were responsible for 185 convictions, of 52 persons summarily and 90 by indictment.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The estimated total population on the 31st December, according to the returns of the Registrar-General, was 54,599, an increase of 526 during the year, and was composed of 26,283 males and 28,316 females.

The birth-rate of the year was 29·8 per thousand, as compared with 31·9 per thousand in 1906; and the death-rate 20 per thousand, compared with 19 per thousand in 1906. The number of births was 1,611 and of deaths 1,085.

The population by the Census of 1901 was 49,883. The natural increase by excess of births over deaths from the date of the Census to the 31st December, 1907, has been approximately 4,716. No deduction is made of persons who have left the island since the withdrawal of the garrison in 1905, and since the Panama Canal works were started. The estimate of the present population appears, therefore, to be subject to modification.

The number of marriages during the year was 277, as compared with 352 in the previous year.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

In the early part of the year malarial fever, which had been rife at Vieux Fort during 1906, supervening on an epidemic of influenza, began to abate, but the number of patients treated for this disease at the hospital and the dispensaries of Vieux Fort and Laborie was 922, showing that it was very widespread. The Medical Officer reports that by the end of June health conditions were normal.

Dr. King, the Health Officer of Castries, reports:—

“The year has not been healthy. There was a great deal of malaria in the early months; then in May and June a very severe epidemic of what, for want of a better name, may be called influenza. Although not true influenza, it was a very serious disease. Few persons escaped entirely, many developed grave complications, and a few died. Pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia were very common, the death-rate from them unnecessarily high for several reasons. In the first place the labouring class is apt to think very little of fever until it has lasted for a week or so, as they know by experience that fever patients frequently recover without treatment, so, being unacquainted with this influenza they believed it to be ordinary malaria. Hence it was common to see for the first time a patient who had already exhausted all his reserve of strength in an unaided battle with a double pneumonia. Such cases all ended fatally.

"Secondly, the people, who are becoming more and more willing to submit to hospital treatment for surgical diseases, cannot be brought to understand that hospital treatment is of advantage in medical diseases also. Unluckily, the negro, whose resisting power to some diseases is marvellous, succumbs to pneumonia very easily. Most of the cases treated in hospital from the beginning of their illness made satisfactory recoveries, but the hospital average is ruined by several neglected cases brought simply to die there, and so avoid for the relatives the unpleasantness of police enquiries and possible post-mortem examinations."

In the Dennery Quarter the Medical Officer reports:—"About the middle of the year there was a sharp outbreak of a severe type of influenza throughout the district, which was responsible for many deaths among the older inhabitants. There was also a mild outbreak of whooping-cough about this time, and of parotitis—"Mumps"—at the end of the year." There were 11 cases of influenza and 149 of fever treated at the Dennery dispensary, 8 and 90 respectively at Mabouya and 19 and 154 at Micoud.

The Soufrière quarter appears to have escaped this visitation, as only malarial fevers were returned; 73 cases in Soufrière, 83 at Anse la Raye, and 24 at Choiseul.

It would appear that an epidemic of influenza commencing at Vieux Fort spread to the Castries and the Dennery quarters, carrying in its train malarial fever.

CLIMATE.

The rainfall for the year at different stations was:—

	Inches.
At Botanic Station, Castries	71.33
„ Agricultural School, near Castries ...	73.50
„ Rivière Dorée	50.70
„ Anse la Raye	78.63
„ Soufrière	72.56
„ Errard	79.93
„ Fond	54.00
„ La Caye	62.20
„ Parc	80.18
	623.03
Mean for nine Stations	69.23

This is 15 inches below the average for 1906.

The maximum temperature registered during 1907 was 90° on August 24th and September 2nd, and the minimum temperature 60° on March 29th. The mean monthly temperature for the year was 78.2°. The mean barometrical pressure for the year was 30.001 inches at 10 feet above mean sea level.

VIII.—POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

POST OFFICE.

The revenue of the Department was £1,359 0s. 10d., of which £991 9s. 6d. was received from letters, post-cards, &c., £175 17s. 8d. from sales of stamps to collectors, and £169 13s. 7d. from commissions on postal and money orders, and £22 0s. 1d. for box rents.

The expenditure was £1,077 16s. 2d., but the mail subsidy in respect of the new contract with the Royal Mail Company had not been paid, and no portion of the subsidy of the coastal steamer, which carries mails to and from the out-ports, is charged against the Post Office.

The total number of letters and post-cards dealt with was:—

Foreign sent	...	...	...	...	106,807	
" received	...	...	...	...	96,704	
						203,511
Inland	...	...	...	...	...	89,294
						292,805
The number last year was	...	...	...	...	...	290,773
A net increase of	...	...	...	...	...	2,032
Newspapers and book packets sent	...	...	...	...	11,387	
" " " received	...	...	...	...	51,341	
						62,728
Inland	...	...	...	...	...	17,689
						80,417
The number last year was	...	...	...	...	...	93,565
A net decrease of	...	...	...	...	...	13,148
Parcels sent	...	...	...	...	336	
" received	...	...	...	...	2,027	
						2,363
The number last year was	...	...	...	...	...	2,276
A net increase of	...	...	...	...	...	87

The number of registered articles sent was 3,702, and the number received 3,676. The number of insured letters sent was four, and the number received 13. 3,793 letters were dealt with in the Returned Letter Branch.

The money orders issued amounted to £5,988, and the orders issued elsewhere and paid here £4,117. British postal orders were sold to the amount of £1,712, and paid to the amount of £351.

The inland postal orders issued only amounted to £44 17s. 6d.

In September a new contract was made with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for a fortnightly intercolonial mail service.

In October the weight for letters was raised from $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to 1 oz., the rate of postage remaining at one penny.

TELEPHONES.

The system consists of $111\frac{1}{2}$ miles of trunk line, $48\frac{5}{8}$ miles of branch lines, or a total of $161\frac{1}{8}$.

The lines were maintained in good working order throughout the year.

On 31st December there were 116 subscribers, as compared with 110 in 1906.

The receipts were £636 12s. 6d., and the expenditure £771 1s. 9d., exclusive of charges for interest and sinking fund on the loan raised for the construction of the lines.

IX.—GENERAL REMARKS.

Mr. R. C. Williams, C.M.G., assumed the government of the Windward Islands as Governor and Commander-in-Chief on 17th January, 1907, and was promoted to be K.C.M.G. in November.

Mr. A. De Freitas succeeded Mr. E. Bateson as Attorney-General, Mr. W. J. Douglass succeeding Mr. De Freitas as Magistrate of the First District.

The Administrator was on leave for six months from May to November, when Mr. E. D. Laborde, I.S.O., acted for him.

The most important feature of the year is the marked increase of prosperity, indicating that the island has recovered from the depression which supervened on the removal of the garrison.

The prices of sugar and cocoa have been remunerative, the export of logwood has been resumed and the coal trade has expanded satisfactorily in spite of severe competition with other ports.

The Public Revenues, which had been insufficient to cover expenditure during the two previous years, showed a considerable surplus, partly on account of extra taxation, but largely because of an increased yield due to prosperity. The balance of deposits in the savings bank at the same time increased by about 20 per cent., and the balance of assets of the Friendly Societies by 35 per cent., showing that the prosperity was general.

Most hopeful signs for the future are the greater attention now being paid to agriculture, which has already been commented on under that heading, and the great increase in average attendance at the elementary schools. The aim of the Government has been to endeavour to push forward elementary, agricultural, and sanitary education, and although heavily handicapped by want of means during the past few years, a commencement has been made which it is hoped that more liberal provision in future Estimates will enable it to accomplish. The Inspector of Schools, the Agricultural Instructor, and the Crown Lands Overseer working together should be able to reach all classes of agriculturists—old and young, while teaching elementary sanitation by text books and lectures is relied on to yield good results.

At the same time the improvement of the roads now in existence, the bridging of the rivers which is proceeding from year to year, and the gradual making of new roads are calculated to reduce the cost of transport of produce and render agriculture more profitable.

A sketch map of St. Lucia is appended.

P. C. CORK.

Government House, St. Lucia,
22 August, 1908.



Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colônias¹ possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year
544	Barbados... ..	1906-1907
545	Trinidad and Tobago	"
546	Grenada	"
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
549	Jamaica	1906-1907
550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia... ..	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906-1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar... ..	"
564	Ashanti	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907-1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907
567	Seychelles	"
568	Bermuda... ..	"
569	Weihaiwei	"
570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta	1907-1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907-1908
575	Bahamas	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907-8
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
48	Nyasaland Protectorate	Mineral Survey, 1905-6
49	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907-8.
54	Newfoundland... ..	Governor's visit to Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.

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1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 555.

ST. VINCENT.

REPORT FOR 1906-7.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 510)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
February, 1908.



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No. 555.

ST. VINCENT.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 510.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Grenada,

6th January, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of the Colony of St. Vincent for the year 1906-7, prepared by Mr. D. T. Tudor, Acting Administrator.

I have, &c.,

RALPH WILLIAMS,

Governor.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF ST. VINCENT FOR THE YEAR 1906-7.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following comparative statements and table give the heads of revenue and expenditure, and the amounts received under those heads, for the years 1905-6 and 1906-7, as well as the total revenue and expenditure for each of the last five years, 1902-3 to 1906-7:—

(Table 1.)

*Comparative Statement of Revenue for the Years 1906-7 and
1905-6.*

Heads of Revenue.	1906-7.	1905-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Customs:—				
Import	10,549 7 10	9,771 11 9	777 16 1	—
Export	669 8 10	619 5 11	50 2 11	—
2. Port and Harbour Dues:—				
Tonnage	638 7 3	562 8 6	75 18 9	—
Port	110 10 0	128 19 0	—	18 9 0
3. Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue:—				
Licences—Liquor	364 15 0	409 10 0	—	44 15 0
Do. Other	1,097 17 3	1,271 13 9	—	173 16 7
Excise	3,454 10 10	3,806 18 0	—	352 7 2
Land and House Tax	3,067 12 8	3,131 18 10	—	64 6 2
Income Tax	529 18 3	508 1 11	23 16 4	—
Other Internal Revenue	617 0 3	730 1 8	—	113 1 5
4. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in aid.	1,272 9 10	1,502 16 6	—	90 6 8
5. Post Office	884 4 3	1,090 14 3	—	206 10 0
6. Telephones	404 13 10	414 16 10	—	10 3 0
7. Rent of Government Property	60 0 0	25 0 0	35 0 0	—
8. Interest and Refunds of Loans	529 4 0	614 2 6	—	84 18 6
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	65 18 7	37 14 9	28 3 10	—
10. Sales and Leases of Crown Lands	406 13 2	444 4 8	—	37 11 6
Total Local Revenue	24,722 11 10	24,927 18 10	990 17 11	1,196 4 11
Parliamentary Grants—				
In aid of Agricultural Department	1,308 16 7	1,222 0 0	86 16 7	—
In aid of deficit	—	750 0 0	—	750 0 0
Total General Revenue	26,031 8 5	26,899 18 10	1,077 14 6	1,946 4 11

Comparative Statement of Expenditure for the Years 1906 7 and 1905-6.

Heads of Expenditure.	1906-7.	1905-6.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Charge on Account of Public Debt	709 15 0	630 0 0	79 15 0	—
2. Pensions	1,714 6 1	1,884 17 8	29 8 5	—
3. The Governor	885 19 4	901 6 8	—	15 7 4
4. Government Office	1,230 18 4	1,305 0 6	—	74 2 2
5. Treasury, Customs and Excise ..	1,564 19 10	1,425 9 4	139 10 6	—
6. Audit Department	286 13 7	309 5 0	—	22 11 5
7. Legal Departments	1,666 0 3	1,859 12 9	—	193 12 6
8. Police and Prisons	3,039 13 1	2,916 16 10	122 16 3	—
9. Medical Department	1,535 11 3	1,613 10 9	—	77 19 6
10. Hospitals and Dispensaries	2,572 3 5	2,824 19 5	—	252 16 0
11. Poor Relief	668 12 2	792 16 6	—	84 4 4
12. Education	1,496 10 8	1,484 11 11	11 18 9	—
13. Post Office	757 15 11	718 13 4	39 2 7	—
14. Telephone Department	335 8 7	333 8 4	2 0 3	—
15. Miscellaneous	919 15 7	1,532 0 7	—	612 5 0
16. Crown Lands and Survey Department.	597 13 3	607 0 10	—	9 7 7
17. Public Works Department	502 15 11	546 18 5	—	44 2 6
18. Do. do. Recurrent	2,485 6 1	2,455 14 8	29 11 5	—
19. Do. do. Extraordinary	247 16 7	398 2 1	—	150 5 6
20. Agricultural Department	255 2 2	285 2 6	—	30 0 4
Total Local Expenditure ..	23,503 17 1	24,625 8 1	454 3 2	1,576 14 2
Agricultural Department (from Imperial Funds).	1,146 17 3	1,235 17 0	—	138 19 9
Total General Expenditure..	24,649 14 4	25,911 5 1	454 3 2	1,715 13 11

(Table 2.)

Total Revenue and Expenditure for Five Years 1902-3 to 1906 7.

Year.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	—	Total.	—	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1902-3.	Local 25,931	29,292	Local 25,758	28,390
	Imperial Grant 3,361		Imperial Grant 2,632	
1903-4.	Local 20,944	26,516	Local 26,657	28,115
	Imperial Grant 5,572		Imperial Grant 1,458	
1904-5.	Local 22,448	28,266	Local 25,228	26,515
	Imperial Grant 5,818		Imperial Grant 1,287	
1905-6.	Local 24,928	26,900	Local 24,625	25,911
	Imperial Grant 1,972		Imperial Grant 1,286	
1906-7.	Local 24,723	26,031	Local 23,503	24,649
	Imperial Grant 1,308		Imperial Grant 1,146	

The total local revenue of the Colony for the year 1906-7 was £24,723, being £480 more than the estimate and £206 less than the receipts of the previous year.

The gross excess of receipts over estimate was £1,054, of which £599 was under the head of "Customs," and the gross deficiency on estimated receipts was £574, of which £295 was under "Excise" and £60 under "Liquor Licences," the result being a net increase over estimate of £480 as above stated.

On a comparison of the revenue details of 1906-7 with those of the previous year, it will be seen that there was a satisfactory increase in the customs revenue during the year, both under import and export. The increase of £778 in the receipt of import duties shows that the spending capacity of the community has been materially enlarged; whilst the advance of £50 in the receipt of export duties is most significant, especially when one bears in mind the very low rate of these duties in this Colony. Both of these totals provide direct and forcible evidence of a substantial improvement in the financial conditions and unprecedented development of agriculture in St. Vincent.

The decrease in the total amount of port dues is principally attributable to the fact that an important line of steamers have ceased to make their fortnightly calls at our port in Kingstown.

The gross revenue, including the Parliamentary grant of £1,308 in aid of the annual grant for Botanic Station and Agricultural School, was £26,031.

The expenditure of the Colony for the year was £23,503 (as against an estimate of £25,034), and a further amount of £1,146 was spent out of the Imperial Grant on upkeep of the agricultural institutions.

The corresponding figures of expenditure in 1905-6 were £24,625 and £1,286.

Comparison with the previous year's expenditure is most satisfactory, although it shows an increased expenditure of £79 on account of public debt, the liability on which had up to last year been lessening annually; the present increase has arisen on account of the Crown Lands Roads Loan, the first repayments on which have now begun to fall due. By similar comparison, an increase of £139 is to be noted against the "Treasury," due principally to higher emoluments, and an increase of £122 against "Police," caused by a larger purchase of new uniforms.

On the other hand, substantial savings appear under other heads of expenditure, notably, £193 from reduction in salaries against the "Legal Department," £252 from the exercise of general economy in "Hospitals and Dispensaries," and a net saving of £165 in Public Works under the three heads 17, 18, and 19. The large decrease of £612 against the heading "Miscellaneous" is somewhat illusory as it is only made apparent after comparing these returns with the previous year's; which latter returns included two extraordinary items

whereunder the bad debts due by the towns of Chateaubelair and Georgetown, amounting to £425, were remitted, the explanation for which remission is set forth in last year's report.

The net result of the year's working is therefore:—

	£
Actual local revenue	24,723
Actual local expenditure	23,503

So further increasing the surplus by £1,220

as against an estimated deficit, for the year, of £739.

This estimated deficit, if realised, could have been paid out of the Colony's Surplus Fund; hence it was that it had not been found necessary to apply this year for an Imperial Grant in aid of such anticipated shortage.

(B.) TAXATION.

No changes took place during the year under review.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

An examination of the statement subjoined shows an excess of assets of £2,964.

At 31st March, 1906, the account showed an excess of assets of £1,744.

(Table

Statement of the Liabilities and Assets of the

LIABILITIES.									
DEPOSITS :				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Savings Bank	...	...	...	12,511	0	2			
Police Reward Fund	...	...	...	19	4	3			
Georgetown Town Fund	...	...	...	12	4	11			
Layou Town Fund	...	...	...		19	3			
Barrouallie Town Fund	...	...	...	15	5	5			
Hurricane Loan "Special Fund"	...	...	...	2,636	4	10			
Roads and Land Settlement Fund	...	...	...	5,848	1	5			
Permanent Investment (Eruption Fund).	...	...	...	25,000	0	0			
Restoration and Improvement Current Account (Eruption Fund).	...	...	...	4,245	12	8			
Alexander Fund...	...	...	...	1,071	16	11			
Graham Fund	...	...	...	690	9	9			
Cotton Cultivation Fund	...	...	...	106	6	7			
The Imperial Agricultural Department	...	...	...	314	1	2			
Cotton Factory—Working Account	...	...	...	185	7	6			
Veterinary Surgeon Fund	...	...	...	117	13	9			
Stock Improvement Fund	...	...	...	248	14	1			
Other Deposits	...	...	...	50	17	11			
							53,074	0	7
INTER-COLONIAL ACCOUNTS :									
Government of Grenada	...	...	...				239	17	11
Post Office Account	...	...	...				575	6	9
Total Liabilities*	...	...	...				53,889	5	3
Excess of Assets	...	...	...				2,963	11	8
							£56,852	16	11

* The Public Debt is £4,150. The Colony is also responsible for the Treasury, which is at date £13,665 9s. 0d.

Examined and found correct,

Audit Office, St. Vincent,
19th July, 1907.

WM. CUDDFORD,
Auditor.

3.)

Colony of Saint Vincent at 31st March, 1907.

ASSETS.								
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash in Treasury Chest	...	...				375	3	2
Colonial Bank on Current Account	...					2,092	16	7
INVESTMENTS :								
Savings Bank Funds	...	...	11,997	6	9			
Hurricane Loan "Special Fund"	...		1,994	16	7			
Roads and Land Settlement Fund	...		4,885	0	9			
Permanent Investment (Eruption Fund).	...		25,000	0	0			
Restoration and Improvement Current Account (Eruption Fund).	...		4,359	12	2			
Alexander Fund...	...	...	1,021	0	9			
Graham Fund	...	...	598	7	10			
						49,856	4	10
ADVANCES :								
Kingstown Town Fund	...	...	112	5	6			
Calliaqua Town Fund	...	...	3	2	8			
Chateaubelair Town Fund	...	...	6	10	2			
Bequia Town Fund	...	...	5	11	9			
Other Advances	...	...	302	0	0			
						429	10	1
INTER COLONIAL ACCOUNTS :								
Government of St. Lucia	...	...				87	3	4
Drafts and Remittances	...	...				2,396	1	7
Crown Agents, Current Account	...		115	17	4			
" " Deposit Account	...		1,500	0	0			
						1,615	17	4
						£56,852	16	11

unpaid balance of the Hurricane Loan to planters from the Imperial

Treasury, St. Vincent,
4th June, 1907.EDWARD J. CAMERON,
Treasurer.

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt of the Colony at 31st March, 1907, stood at £4,150, as against £4,650 at the end of the previous financial year. Of the above sum, however, the amount for which Colonial revenue is actually liable is £800 only. The remainder, though guaranteed by the Colony, is repayable from the municipal funds of the towns of Kingstown and Georgetown.

(E.) CURRENCY.

Sterling money of Great Britain, and British silver and copper coins constitute the legal money for tender in the Colony; although American gold is occasionally found in circulation and the notes of the Colonial Bank are most commonly used in the larger daily monetary transactions.

The Government's accounts are kept in sterling and commercial accounts in dollars and cents.

(F.) and (G.) FINANCES OF MUNICIPALITIES OR PUBLIC BOARDS.

The management of the affairs of the town of Kingstown is vested in a Board, one half of the members of which body are elected by the ratepayers and the other half nominated by the Government. The small towns of the Colony are controlled by Wardens, appointed annually by the Government.

The following comparative statements give the total revenue and expenditure of these towns for the last five years:—

Revenue.

Town.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£	£	£
Kingstown	1,495	1,873*	1,657	1,664	1,708
Georgetown	179	90	164	137	105
Chateaubelair	31	27	23	32	34
Calliaqua	40	36	31	38	35
Barrouallie	33	38	29	33	40
Layou	22	28	16	19	18
Bequia	6	6	15	11	10

* Inclusive of £201, 1902 revenue, not passed to account till 3rd January, 1903.

Expenditure.

Town.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£	£	£
Kingstown	1,637	1,609	1,650	1,472	1,698
Georgetown	204	137	120	103	102
Chateaubelair	33	31	26	24	28
Calliaqua	27	33	40	24	52
Barrouallie	60	20	27	20	34
Layou	17	23	34	19	12
Bequia	5	7	4	10	27

DEBTS OF TOWNS.

The debts of the towns at 31st March, 1907, are as follows:—

	£	£
Kingstown water supply	2,700	
Kingstown town improvement	300	
		3,000
Georgetown water supply		350
		£3,350

Provision for repayment of these loans is made by rates levied annually on the townspeople, and the debts are secured on the general revenue of the Colony. The Kingstown water supply loan is being repaid at a rate varying from £200 to £400 per annum, the town improvement loan at the rate of £50 per annum, and the Georgetown loan by annual instalments of £50.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRY.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following comparative statement gives the value of the chief articles of imports in 1906-7 and the two previous years:—

Imports.

Chief Articles.	Value.		
	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
Class I.—	£	£	£
Beef, salted or cured	605	418	382
Biscuits	1,780	2,042	1,611
Butter	1,688	1,518	1,654
Coffee	201	315	357

Imports—cont.

Chief Articles.	Value.		
	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
Class I.—<i>cont.</i>	£	£	£
Fish, salted, &c.	5,671	4,875	5,954
Flour, wheaten	7,951	7,864	8,386
Flour, other kinds	445	513	567
Oilmeal and cake	362	368	345
Pork, salted	2,056	1,922	1,917
Rice	2,399	2,179	2,279
Salt	458	426	315
Sugar, muscovado	54	333	126
Sugar, refined	436	508	436
Sugar, crystallised	370	363	212
Wine	601	623	570
Food and drink supplies, unenumerated ...	1,092	986	939
Tobacco, cigars, &c.	949	971	889
Spirits	908	826	868
Class II.—			
Manure	12	181	581
Petroleum oil	1,179	1,211	1,383
Timber and shingles	4,158	2,595	7,000
Class III.—			
Textile manufactures, other than rope, cordage and canvas.	16,262	15,185	16,581
Metal, manufactured	4,385	4,822	5,922
Boots and shoes	855	740	958
Cement	498	398	467
Rope, cordage and canvas	1,326	745	1,134
Soap	1,498	1,375	1,569
Articles unenumerated, other than textiles or metal manufactures.	4,200	2,822	2,817

Generally speaking, trade has been very brisk during the year, and the importation of foodstuffs has increased, particularly in fish and flour, the respective values of which were £1,079 and £576 above the previous year's importations; but, on the other hand, the values of biscuits and sugar show decreases, being respectively £431 and £430 below the previous year's valuations.

All the chief articles enumerated under Class II. and under Class III. were imported in larger quantities, and an especially large rise is to be noted in building materials, timber and shingles having amounted to the value of £7,000. The imported timber, alone, amounted in value to £4,144, and of this a quantity, valued at £944, was exported to neighbouring colonies.

The figures given in the annual report of the Supervisor of Customs show an increase in value of imports of £8,911 com-

pared with the figures of 1905-6, the distribution being as follows:—

Increase from the United Kingdom	...	£ 1,655
„ „ British Colonies	...	2,179
„ „ Foreign Countries	...	5,077
		£8,911

The returns under “British Colonies” show a marked change in the origin of importation; there having been a decrease of £3,411 from British West Indies, but an increase of £5,558 from British North America.

The value of the principal exports is given in the annexed table:—

Exports.

Articles.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7
	£	£	£
Cassava starch	1,379	1,531	1,439
Whale oil	437	254	250
Turtle shell	341	551	433
Firewood	627	685	493
Cotton and cotton seed	4,857	8,280	18,949
Vegetables	2,340	3,545	2,690
Manure	97	57	14
Syrup	648	344	452
Sugar, muscovado	9,777	3,793	3,555
Pease	458	379	689
Molasses... ..	652	895	1,111
Rum	204	431	—
Ground-nuts	1,258	2,444	1,929
Live stock	3,993	5,076	5,192
Fresh fruit	227	75	38
Farine	343	378	286
Arrowroot	20,674	20,522	24,351
Cocoa	2,255	2,426	3,838

It was noted with satisfaction in last year's report that the value of exported cotton during the year then under review was nearly double what it had been in the previous year (1904-5). The most remarkable features in this return are that, although the record of exported cotton is now more than double even the previous year's increased record, the exportation of arrowroot in no way suffered, for the figure under this head has increased by nearly 20 per cent., and moreover that cocoa was also exported to a very much larger extent, showing an increase of more than 25 per cent.

The values of exported cassava starch, vegetables, and ground-nuts were very satisfactory, although they do not equal the grand totals achieved in the previous year.

The decrease under "Vegetables" is entirely due to the comparatively small exportation of sweet potatoes which was less by £831 than in the previous year. This decrease was accompanied by a considerable drop in the exportation of fresh fruit. As these products are mainly shipped by the peasantry class it would seem as if the cultivation of cotton is found to be more attractive.

Much less firewood was exported during the year, the value of exports of this class having been £141 less than the average amount exported during the previous three years, and £192 less than in 1905-6.

The increase of £116 in the value of live stock exported is to be attributed solely to a brisker trade in the exportation of pigs, because this trade shows an excess in value, over the previous year's figures, of £648; whilst the horses and sheep exported were lower in value respectively by the sums of £219 and £148. The presence of anthrax in St. Vincent has had, as explained in previous reports, and will probably continue to have, a discounting influence upon the exportation of the larger and more valuable kinds of live stock, although the islands of the Grenadines now enjoy complete immunity from the disease.

Sugar shows a lower return, as regards value, although the weight exported was greater than in the previous year. No rum was exported during the year.

The total imports and exports for the five years 1902 to 1906-7 are given below:—

Imports.

Classes.	1902.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	£	£	£	£	£
I. Live animals, food, drink, &c.	37,861	31,643	32,534	31,575	32,000
II. Raw materials...	11,292	10,076	8,628	6,566	12,268
III. Manufactured articles	29,970	36,134	33,076	30,956	33,740
Totals ...	79,123	77,853	74,238	69,097	78,008

Exports.

Classes.	1902.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	£	£	£	£	£
I. Live animals, food, drink, &c.	38,781	33,023	43,374	40,935	46,393
II. Raw materials...	3,201	3,572	6,648	10,289	21,899
III. Manufactured articles	2,112	1,579	1,880	1,854	15,463
Totals ...	44,094	38,174	51,902	53,078	83,755

By comparison with previous year's returns, and allowing for the large importations of relief and other stores consequent upon the distress following the eruptions of 1902-3, these totals, it is claimed, are entirely satisfactory and indicative of sound progression, notwithstanding that the total now extended opposite Class III. under Exports includes a sum of £13,200 representing shipments of specie.

The volume and direction of the Colony's trade in the five years 1902 to 1906-7 are shown in the following tables:—

Imports.

—	1902.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	24,579	31,146	28,816	25,471	27,126
British Colonies	25,107	26,162	29,562	30,691	32,870
Foreign Countries	29,437	20,545	15,860	12,935	18,012
Totals	79,123	77,853	74,238	69,097	78,008

Exports.

—	1902.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	22,333	19,204	22,192	24,405	39,878
British Colonies	15,146	16,470	26,881	27,920	43,184
Foreign Countries	6,615	2,499	2,829	753	693
Totals	44,094	38,173	51,902	53,078	83,755

The shipments of specie, above mentioned, were consigned mainly to British Colonies, £12,400 having been sent to other West Indian Colonies, whilst only £800 of the total £13,200, was sent to the United Kingdom.

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

The Grenadines Whale Fishery was again a failure. The export of whale oil was only 5,824 gallons, valued at £250, as against 6,482 gallons of the value of £254 in 1905-6.

The Central Cotton Ginnery erected in 1903-4 still remains under the successful management of the officers of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. The rate charged for ginning and baling is fixed at 1d per lb., and at this low rate a considerable profit results after paying for labour and other outgoings.

The lint again secured the highest price in the English market, which fact is in a great measure due to the care and expert supervision bestowed on the ginning and preparation of the produce for export.

The disintegrator for crushing cotton seed was not used, and practically all of the seed produced locally was sent to Barbados for sale. It is much to be regretted that this should be the case, but it is difficult to see how it can be altered until effective oil-extraction machinery has been erected in the Colony.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

The advance, noted under this head in previous reports, has continued most satisfactorily.

The Agricultural Department distributed a large number of economic plants, *i.e.*, 10,134; but this total is somewhat lower than that of previous seasons, owing to the planters' attention and efforts having been directed more to cotton cultivation than to the cultivation of permanent crops.

The export of cacao showed a substantial increase in volume, and higher prices were obtained for this class of produce. The number of bags shipped during the year was 1,129, as against 789 in the previous year and in marked contrast to the smaller returns of preceding years, and especially to that of 1900 when only 443 bags were shipped. Moreover, a considerable amount of cacao is always consumed locally by the peasant and labouring classes.

The cultivation of Sea Island cotton has advanced in a very marked degree. The total acreage planted was about 1,534 acres as against 790 in 1905-6, and the yield was also better. "Anthracnose" disease made its appearance in the bolls, and leaf-blister mite late in the season, but on the whole the damage done to the plants was not serious.

The exports of Sea Island cotton during the financial year amounted to 225,632 lbs., the crop for the whole season having been estimated at 252,104 lbs.; and practically all the exported cotton was ginned at the Central Cotton Factory by the Agricultural Department.

The prices realised were very satisfactory on the whole; no less than 31 pence per lb. having been obtained for a few bales, whilst a considerable number sold at 30 pence. The average price for white lint was from 27 pence to 28 pence per lb.

The value of the exports in cotton and cotton-seed amounted to £18,949, cotton thus maintaining its place as second in importance on the list of St. Vincent exports.

The sugar industry is being rapidly replaced by cotton in every direction. An effort was made to encourage the pro-

duction of "fancy" molasses for the Canadian market, but with partial success only.

Although the weight of sugar exported during the year showed a slight increase over that of the previous year, yet its estimated value was less; the sugar shipped having been 967,445 lbs., valued at £3,516, as against the shipment in 1905-6 of 786,293 lbs., valued at £3,794.

The large areas of land devastated by the eruptions of the Soufrière (1902-3), were not cultivated to any extent during the year under review, but I am glad to state that, at the time of writing this report, some few more hundreds of acres in that locality are once again being put into cultivation in sugarcane, arrowroot, pigeon-peas, and cotton. The remark made in last year's report, to the effect that cotton cultivation in this district had so far been only a partial success must be repeated in connection with this year's working.

The continuous recurrences of "sporadic" cases of anthrax and the consequent prohibition by the Government of neighbouring colonies of the shipment thereto of cattle from St. Vincent, have continued to cause much anxiety, inconvenience, and loss. This Government and the Imperial Department of Agriculture, who took the matter in hand, were successful in obtaining, temporarily, the services of Professor H. E. Annett, of the Liverpool School of Pathology, to investigate the disease and advise as to the best measures for stamping it out; and a Government veterinary surgeon was subsequently added to the official staff. Certain other and practical measures for fighting the disease have been resorted to and energetically carried out, such as the vaccination of all kinds of stock, the microscopic examination of the ears of every animal which dies, and the proper disposal of all diseased carcasses. Most of the neighbouring colonies accepted stock which had been vaccinated, some even without an interval of quarantine, and so the scheme received practical as well as moral support.

On the Land Settlement estates, progress continued to be made in the cultivation of the land.

A number (8,363) of economic plants, cacao, nutmeg, coffee, &c., was distributed free amongst the allottees, of which plants a proportion was raised on nurseries in the Linley and Cumberland Valleys.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

The price of ordinary Crown land is £1 per acre for cash, and £2 if paid in instalments. A certain area is rented out in small lots at 6s. 3d. an acre.

The law governing the disposition and administration of these lands was consolidated and simplified.

The amount of Crown land proper granted during 1906-7 was 253 acres, the number of grants issued being 55, as against 47 in the previous year; while of eruption lands (the latter being the estates acquired from the Eruption Fund in 1902 for location of refugees, on which, however, there were numerous tenants found, many of whom have since acquired their holdings) grants were issued to 131 persons, of which 34 were for small lots and 97 for house-spots.

The revenue from sales and rental of Crown lands, not including eruption estates, was £407, as against £444 in the previous year; whilst the revenue from the eruption lands aggregated £233, as against £208 in the previous year.

(E.) SHIPPING.

A table of the entries and clearances of steamers and sailing vessels during the years 1905-6 and 1906-7 is annexed, as also a comparative statement of the total shipping for the last five years. These figures do not include ships-of-war, of which two British and two French visited the Colony during the year:—

Sailing Vessels.

Nationality.	1905-6.				1906-7.			
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British ...	460	10,151	452	10,419	394	9,563	386	9,545
United States ...	1	756	1	756	1	720	1	720
Venezuelan ...	8	227	6	172	1	18	1	18
Dutch ...	4	244	4	244	3	185	3	185
French ...	—	—	—	—	1	457	1	457
Totals ...	473	11,378	463	11,591	400	10,943	392	10,925

Steamers.

Nationality.	1905-6.		1906-7.	
	Inwards and Outwards.		Inwards and Outwards.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British ...	166	222,477	99	143,145
Norwegian ...	1	1,298	—	—
Totals ...	167	223,775	99	143,145

The large decrease appearing in this latter table was caused by one important line of steamers having ceased in the month of July to call here. For two years prior to July this line had maintained a fortnightly connection with St. Vincent, but the company owning these steamers (viz., Messrs. Scruttons Direct Line) have abandoned this port.

Total Shipping for last Five Years.

—			1902.	January, 1903, to March, 1904.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
			Tons.	Tons	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Inwards	...	...	190,211	217,601	249,341	235,153	154,088
Outwards	...	...	190,348	217,876	249,246	235,366	154,070
Totals	...	...	380,559	435,477	498,587	470,519	308,158

III.—LEGISLATION.

During the year 1906 seventeen Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council, some of which are unusually important. Ordinance No. 8, "The Criminal Evidence Ordinance," and Ordinance No. 15, "The Married Women's Property Ordinance," assimilated the law of the Colony with the more modern law of England, in relation to the subjects referred to in their short titles. Ordinance No. 14, "The Passenger Boats Ordinance," which amends the law by introducing fresh provisions for ensuring the safety of passengers in boats and small vessels on and around the coasts of the Colony, and Ordinance No. 11, "The Agricultural Products Protection Ordinance," which regulates the sale and purchase of certain valuable agricultural products, and which is designed to so check the common and rampant offence of prædial larceny, are also noteworthy enactments of great utility, whilst Ordinance No. 3, "The Crown Lands Ordinance," effected a much-needed consolidation of the laws relating to Crown lands. The remaining Ordinances deal with matters of comparatively minor importance.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The results of primary education in 1905-6 and 1906-7 compare as follows:—

Number of schools	1905-6	27	1906-7	27
Number on roll	„	4,945*	„	4,876*
Average attendance	„	2,488*	„	2,162
		£		£
Government grant-in-aid	„	1,348	„	1,354

An examination of the schools was held from May to July by the Inspector of Schools, Grenada, on whom this duty devolves annually.

(B.) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The grant-in-aid of this was withdrawn at the close of the financial year 1904-5 owing to financial stress.

(C.) INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL, AND AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.

The average number of pupils on the books of the Agricultural School was 23. The four vacancies which occurred during the year in consequence of boys leaving the school were filled with new boys; and boys who left found useful employment on estates in the island. It is satisfactory to record that the demand for boys trained at the school was greater than the supply, and that the object of the institution is, in this and other respects, being rapidly realised.

The work of the school continued to show progress during the year, and it is worthy of remark that a pupil of this school was recently awarded the First Prize in the competitive examination between the three West Indian Agricultural Schools at St. Vincent, Dominica, and St. Lucia.

A good deal of most useful work was done at the stock farm attached to the school. The animals purchased and kept at the farm were a thoroughbred horse stallion, donkey stallion, Ayrshire bull, and a grade Ayrshire cow, besides small stock of good breeds, and poultry.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

During the year there were 688 admissions to the Colonial Hospital, making, with those remaining from the previous year, 744 cases treated, as against a total of 794 in the previous year.

* During the March quarter of the year.

The daily average dropped to 52·4, from averages of 55·8, 55, and 65 in the previous three years.

The death-rate was 7·8 of the total cases.

Operations numbered only 238, as against 294 in the previous year.

The Medical Officer-in-Charge was greatly facilitated in his work by the presence of an efficient European nurse-matron, selected by the Colonial Nursing Association, whose services continued to be of the greatest value.

(B.) ASYLUMS.

Lunatics.

A portion of the old military citadel at Fort Charlotte is available for detention of male lunatics who are violent or manifest destructive tendencies; other males, as to whom it is judged that they may be so treated with safety, are kept under supervision in the pauper asylum, and female lunatics are also detained there. A portion of the wards is partitioned off into cells to provide further and more suitable accommodation for these female cases, some of which are occasionally acute.

As soon as practicable any violent or difficult case is sent to the asylum at Grenada, but sometimes that institution has not got the requisite accommodation, and the transfer is delayed.

There were only 10 cases under treatment during the year (four being new admissions), of whom two were discharged cured, two died, and one was transferred to the Grenada Asylum.

The total number of St. Vincent lunatics under care there was 25, at a cost to the colony of £499 10s.

Lepers.

The number of inmates of the Leper Asylum on the 31st March, 1906, was ten; one case was admitted and there were four deaths, leaving seven at the commencement of the new year.

There is no compulsory segregation.

(C.) POOR HOUSES.

The Colony's paupers are housed in the old military buildings at Fort Charlotte, on a considerable elevation, commanding the town of Kingstown.

There were 108 inmates on 31st March, 1906, and the admissions and discharges in 1906-7 were:—

		Male	Female.	Total.
Admissions ...		36	29	65
Discharged ...		16	14	30
Died		25	23	48
		41	37	78

leaving 95 on 31st March, 1907.

The total expenditure in 1906-7 was £969 on the institutions, including lepers and lunatics kept locally, as against £1,090 in 1905-6.

Chronic tertiary syphilis accounts for the vast majority of cases to whom this institution offers asylum for the closing stages of their lives.

(D.) REFORMATORIES.

Nil.

(E.) SAVINGS BANK.

The following is a statement of the work of the Bank for the last five calendar years:—

Year.	Number of Depositors at 31st December.	Amount of Deposits.	Amount of Withdrawals.	Balance at credit of Depositors at 31st December (including Interest capitalised)
		£	£	£
1902	992	8,781	6,501	11,975
1903	987	6,587	6,171	12,653
1904	976	5,012	5,467	12,465
1905	933	4,883	5,276	12,232
1906	907	5,282	5,687	12,095

Up to 1900 the bank was established in Kingstown only, but in that year branches were opened at the small towns of Chateaubelair and Georgetown.

The amount due to depositors was distributed thus:—

	£		£
Kingstown, 31st Dec., 1905	11,258	31st Dec., 1906	10,914
Georgetown „ „	488	„ „	635
Chateaubelair „ „	486	„ „	546
Totals	£12,232		£12,095

The Government made a profit on the working of the bank of £128 1s.

There was invested of Savings Bank funds at 31st December, 1906, £11,698.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The St. Vincent police force consists of a chief, a sergeant-major of European birth, late of the Royal Irish Constabulary, and 48 West Indian non-commissioned officers and privates. In addition to their ordinary police work they are charged with many duties in connection with all such details of administration as excise supervision, district post office work, births and deaths registration, poor relief, and the management of district telephone exchanges.

They are drilled and have some training in the use of arms, and are supplied with Martini-Enfield rifles. The force also commenced a special and systematic course of musketry during the year, under the supervision of Captain Barker, the newly-appointed Staff Officer for the Windward Islands. In Kingstown they form a fire brigade for the town, receiving supplementary pay for this service from the funds of the Town Board.

(B.) PRISONS.

226 were committed to prison in the year—148 men, 66 women, and 12 juveniles. The daily average was 12, against 17·7 in the previous year.

Prisoners with sentences of over two years were sent to serve their time in the Penitentiary at Grenada.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1906-7 was 982, against 893 in the previous year.

Of the offences reported in 1906-7, 218 were for offences against the person, 75 were for prædial larceny, 136 were for offences against property other than prædial larceny, 553 were for other offences.

The total number of convictions in the Inferior Courts was 680, against 601 in the previous year.

These convictions are classed as follows:—129 for offences against the person, 6 for malicious injuries to property, 54 for prædial larceny, 87 for offences against property other than prædial larceny, 156 for offences against Revenue Acts, &c., and 248 for other offences.

The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows:—4 for offences against property, and 3 for other offences.

The acquittals were as follows:—In the Inferior Courts, 119; in the Supreme Court, 3.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The population at the 1891 census was 41,054. No census was taken in 1901 on account of the expense involved, which the colony was not in a position to afford. By the estimate of the Registrar-General, the population at 31st March, 1907, was 51,009. This figure, however, as explained in previous reports, is generally considered to be unreliable, as it takes no account of the flow of emigration which during the past two years has been very considerable in consequence of the exodus of labourers to Panama.

The births registered in 1906-7 were 1,768—856 male and 912 female—as against 1,709 in 1905-6. Of these, 1,018, or 57·57 per cent. were illegitimate.

Still-births were 104—37 legitimate and 67 illegitimate—the figures for the previous year having been 31 and 72 respectively.

Marriages were 141, a decrease of 55 on last year's figures, a decreased total which coincides with the increased percentage of illegitimacy. The figures are given in the following comparative table of marriages:—

Denomination.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
Church of England ...	82	84	64
Roman Catholic... ..	24	10	23
Wesleyan... ..	83	96	46
Church of Scotland ...	13	6	6
Plymouth Brethren ...	—	—	2

The total registered deaths were 929, as against 775 in 1905-6, being 18·2 per 1,000 of the estimated population, a general rate of mortality which, after taking into account the deplorably high rate of infant mortality, must be regarded as very favourable.

The infant mortality (infants under one year, exclusive of still-births) reached no less a total than 311, being 33·5 per cent. of the whole. The similar figure in 1905-6 was 169, or 21·8 per cent.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

A table of the causes of death, properly classified and stated, has been prepared under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Kingstown, Dr. C. W. Branch, and it may be interesting to quote in an abridged form the information it gives:—

Causes of Death.

General diseases (includes syphilis 119, tubercle 66, tetanus 37, malarial fevers 18)	356
Diseases of nervous system	36
" " circulatory system	25
" " respiratory " 	51
" " digestive " 	132
Parasites	47
Age	87
Still-born	104
Other diseases	91
Total	929

(C.) SANITATION.

There is nothing special under this head to which to call attention. In the villages of the peasantry, the ideas and methods in sanitary matters are elementary in the extreme. In the towns things are passable.

(D.) CLIMATE.

The rainfall for the year 1906-7 was 104·45 inches, as against 90·40 inches in 1905-6.

Rain fell on 292 days throughout the year.

The maximum fall in one day was 3·18 inches, on 7th October.

June was the wettest month, with 16·88 inches, and April the driest, with only 1·63 inches.

The mean monthly temperature was 78·3° F. Maximum for the year 90° F., in November, minimum, 63° F., in March.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

During the year very unsatisfactory and uncertain conditions prevailed in connection with the Royal Mail services between Europe and this colony; for although there was a regular service across the Atlantic to and from Barbados, the inter-colonial steam communication with that colony was always unpunctual, and indeed it ceased entirely for several weeks (June to August).

To add to these difficulties, Messrs. Scrutton's Direct Line of steamers, as stated above under "Shipping," discontinued their fortnightly service during the month of July.

All mails to and from Europe were carried to and from Barbados as ship-letters by such sailing or steam opportunities as from time to time presented themselves; and, although some little saving has resulted on public expenditure from not having to pay a mail subsidy during the year, it is a matter of general congratulation at the time of writing that a new inter-colonial mail service has been lately arranged and is only awaiting final ratification by the Imperial Parliament.

The mail service to and from Canada was renewed in July, 1906, for a further period of four years, with improved conditions. Under the new contract with Messrs. Pickford and Black's Steamship Company, which is generously supported and encouraged by the Imperial and Canadian Governments, St. Vincent now secures a 24-days' return service instead of the monthly service which formerly existed, and also gains extra facilities for communicating with all the most important West Indian colonies excepting Grenada. The weekly connection with Grenada was, however, continued by the arrangement whereunder our inland postal contractor for the Grenadines takes his sloop on to Carriacou, where he exchanges mails with the Grenada coasting steamer every week.

The inland postal system was also continued, whereunder the Windward district of the Colony is served three times a week, the Leeward district daily, and the Grenadines, as already stated, weekly.

The postal order system introduced in 1904 maintained its growing popularity, and there was a large increase in the numbers issued. The issue of orders for amounts exceeding 10s. 6d. was initiated during the year. In other respects the volume of the post office business was normal, except that the sale of stamps declined.

The revenue of the telephone department was £405, including £175 transferred to that head on account of the Government installations. The expenditure was £335. The lines run from Kingstown to Chateaubelair, on the Leeward side of the Island, and to Mesopotamia and Georgetown on the Windward side, about 24 miles either way, and the service is a most useful one.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

In March last active measures were set on foot towards the establishment of a volunteer reserve force, which are now developing in a satisfactory and practical manner; and in that month considerable impetus, more particularly in the way of firing exercise, occurred on the occasion of the first visit to this colony of the recently appointed military adviser, the Staff Officer of the Windward Islands.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

In August, 1906, the appointment of Ralph Champneys Williams, Esquire, C.M.G., to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Windward Islands was announced; and in October Sir Robert Llewelyn, K.C.M.G., paid his last visit to this colony prior to his retirement from the Governorship. That visit was for a period of four days, and His Excellency, our present Governor, arrived in the Windward Islands and passed through St. Vincent on his way to Grenada on the 15th of January. From October, 1905, until His Excellency's arrival, Philip Clarke Cork, Esquire, C.M.G., assumed the office of Administrator-in-Chief of the Windward Islands by virtue of his Dormant Commission in that behalf.

During the year the expansion in all agricultural industries, especially in the cultivation of Sea Island cotton, was remarkable, and this development in the natural resources of the colony has materially improved the economical conditions of the people generally, whilst the bright prospects foreshadowed in last year's report have been fully realised up to date.

The colony's balance sheet discloses a sound position financially, as the surplus assets were increased during the past year by the sum of £1,220, making the grand total of assets amount to £2,964 at the 31st March, 1907. From these assets it is proposed to repay to the Imperial Treasury the sum of £1,441, which had been advanced to the colony by the mother country in aid of anticipated deficits in previous years, which deficits did not in fact ultimately accrue.

The present excess of assets in the local treasury is to be mainly attributed, however, to the long-continued policy of exercising strict economy and retrenchment in every detail of the local administration; in the course of exercising this policy, the grants which were formerly made towards the encouragement of secondary education in the colony have been stopped, and the annual subsidy of £400 hitherto paid to the Telegraph Company for supplying to the public daily bulletins of the world's news and of commercial quotations has been

discontinued. The colony's expenditure has also been largely curtailed by numerous reductions in the salaries voted for various public offices, and some saving incidentally arose during the past year from the temporary cessation in payment of the mail contract subsidy. It is hoped that, with the colony's returning prosperity and increasing public assets, the Government will, at no distant date, be in a position to relax its present frugal policy in certain directions without having again to avail itself of financial assistance which His Majesty's Government has, for so many years and in such large sums, accorded to the colony from the Imperial Exchequer.

The terrible effects of misery and devastation caused by the successive blows sustained from the hurricane of 1898 and the eruptions of the Soufrière in 1902-3 are, it is most gratifying to be able to report, fast disappearing, both morally and physically; and I think there is no question that, given a succession of seasons, under the present favourable conditions without any throw-back through the recurrence of a further catastrophe similar to either of those referred to above, the colony of St. Vincent will eventually be restored to its old-time sound position.

DANIEL T. TUDOR,

Administrator (acting).

31st December, 1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

524	Jamaica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1905-1906
525	Uganda ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
526	St. Helena ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906
527	Ceylon ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
528	Bermuda ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
529	Gibraltar ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
531	Sierra Leone ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
533	Weihaiwei ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906
534	Gold Coast ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
535	Malta ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
536	Gambia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
539	Leeward Islands ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
540	Straits Settlements ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
543	Bahamas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
544	Barbados ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
546	Grenada ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
547	Mauritius ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906
548	Fiji ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
549	Jamaica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
550	British Guiana ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
551	Northern Nigeria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	"
552	British Honduras ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906
553	St. Lucia... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1906

MISCELLANEOUS.

42	Ceylon... ..	...	...	...	Mineral Survey, 1905-6.
43	Caicos Islands ...	...	...	...	Fibre.
44	East Africa Protectorate ...	...	...	...	Survey Department.
45	Do. do. ...	...	...	...	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria ...	...	...	...	Mineral Survey, 1904-5.
47	Do. do. ...	...	...	...	Do. 1905-6.
48	Nyasaland Protectorate ...	...	...	...	Do. 1906-7.

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No. 577.

ST. VINCENT.

REPORT FOR 1907-8.

(For Report for 1906-7, *see* No. 555.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1908.



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No. 577.

ST. VINCENT.

(For Report for 1906-7, *see* No. 555.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

St. Lucia,

21st August, 1908.

Forwarded.

P. C. CORK,

Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable

Earl of Crewe, K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

Government House,

St. Vincent, 10th August, 1908.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith for transmission to the Secretary of State, my report on the Blue Book of the Colony of St. Vincent for the year 1907-8.

I am, &c.,

EDWARD J. CAMERON,

Administrator.

His Excellency

P. C. Cork, C.M.G.,

Acting Governor of the Windward Islands,

&c., &c., &c.,

St. Lucia.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF ST. VINCENT FOR THE YEAR 1907-8.

I.—FINANCIAL.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following comparative statements and table give the heads of revenue and expenditure, and the amounts received under those heads, for the years 1906-7 and 1907-8, as well as the total revenue and expenditure for each of the last five years, 1903-4 to 1907-8:—

(Table 1.)

Comparative Statement of Revenue for the Years 1907-8 and 1906-7.

Heads of Revenue.	Amount collected in the year 1906-7.	Amount collected in the year 1907-8.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Customs:—				
Import	10,549 7 10	12,187 2 11	1,617 15 1	—
Export	689 8 10	682 2 9	12 13 11	—
2. Port and Harbour Dues:—				
Tonnage.. .. .	638 7 3	629 17 1	—	8 10 2
Port	110 10 0	115 13 0	5 3 0	—
3. Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue:—				
Licences—Liquor	364 15 0	385 0 0	20 5 0	—
Do. Other	1,097 17 3	1,201 6 11	103 9 8	—
Excise	3,454 10 10	3,936 16 0	482 5 2	—
Land and House Tax	3,067 12 8	3,128 17 9	61 5 1	—
Income Tax	529 18 3	529 1 6	—	0 16 9
Other Internal Revenue	617 0 3	741 19 7	124 19 4	—
4. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Re- imbursements in aid.	1,272 9 10	1,344 12 3	72 2 5	—
5. Post Office.. .. .	884 4 3	1,010 14 5	126 10 2	—
6. Telephones	404 13 10	453 18 10	49 5 0	—
7. Rent of Government Property	60 0 0	60 0 0	—	—
8. Interest and Refunds of Loans	529 4 0	669 0 1	130 16 1	—
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	65 18 7	35 16 1	—	30 2 6
10. Sales and Leases of Crown Lands.. .. .	406 13 2	490 9 3	53 16 1	—
Total Local Revenue	24,722 11 10	27,543 8 5	2,860 6 0	39 9 5
Parliamentary Grants— In aid of Agricultural Department	1,308 16 7	913 0 0	—	395 16 7
Total General Revenue	26,031 8 5	28,456 8 5	2,860 6 0	495 6 0

*Comparative Statement of Expenditure for the Years 1907-8
and 1906-7.*

Heads of expenditure according to the classification employed in the Estimates.	Expendi- ture 1906-1907.	Expendi- ture 1907-1908.	Increase	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Charge on Account of Public Debt	709 15 0	786 15 0	77 0 0	—
2. Pensions	1,714 6 1	1,708 4 8	—	8 1 5
3. The Governor	885 19 4	907 19 9	22 0 5	—
4. Government Office	1,230 18 4	1,215 18 2	—	15 2 2
5. Treasury, Customs, and Excise	1,564 19 10	1,402 19 1	—	162 0 9
6. Audit Department	286 13 7	331 2 9	44 9 2	—
7. Local Departments	1,666 0 3	1,879 10 0	213 9 9	—
8. Local Forces	—	116 16 3	116 16 3	—
9. Police and Prisons	3,039 13 1	2,996 13 9	—	42 19 4
10. Medical Department	1,535 11 3	1,572 3 4	36 12 1	—
11. Hospitals and Dispensaries	2,572 3 5	2,470 4 1	—	101 19 4
12. Poor Relief	698 12 2	678 13 8	—	19 13 6
13. Education	1,498 10 8	1,493 17 3	—	2 13 5
14. Post Office	757 15 11	956 16 5	199 0 6	—
15. Telephone Department	335 8 7	338 15 0	1 6 5	—
16. Miscellaneous	919 15 7	705 16 1	—	213 19 6
17. Crown Lands and Survey Department.	597 13 3	598 15 10	1 2 7	—
18. Public Works Department	502 15 11	536 8 4	33 12 5	—
19. Do. do. Recurrent	2,485 8 1	2,299 8 4	—	185 17 9
20. Do. do. Extraordinary	247 16 7	259 8 10	11 12 3	—
21. Agricultural Department	255 2 2	255 7 2	0 5 0	—
Total Local Expenditure	23,502 17 1	23,507 16 9	757 6 10	752 7 2
Agricultural Department (from Imperial Funds).	1,148 17 3	1,144 16 4	—	2 0 11
Total General Expenditure..	24,649 14 4	24,652 13 1	757 6 10	754 8 1

(Table 2.)

*Total Revenue and Expenditure for Five Years 1903-4 to
1907-8.*

Year.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	—	Total.	—	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1903-4.	Local 20,944	26,516	Local 26,657	28,115
	Imperial Grant 5,572		Imperial Grant 1,458	
1904-5.	Local 22,448	28,266	Local 25,228	26,515
	Imperial Grant 5,818		Imperial Grant 1,287	
1905-6.	Local 24,928	26,900	Local 24,625	25,911
	Imperial Grant 1,972		Imperial Grant 1,286	
1906-7.	Local 24,723	26,031	Local 23,503	24,649
	Imperial Grant 1,308		Imperial Grant 1,146	
1907-8.	Local 27,543	28,456	Local 23,508	24,653
	Imperial Grant 913		Imperial Grant 1,145	

The total local revenue of the Colony for the year 1907-8 was £27,543, being £2,983 more than the estimate and £2,820 more than the receipts of the previous year.

The total local expenditure, on the other hand, was £23,508, being £1,593 less than the estimate and just £5 more than the figure of the previous year.

The Colony thus made £4,035 clear profit on the year's working.

This result is due to a general revival of prosperity induced mainly by the growing success of the cotton industry and to some extent by the improved market for arrowroot.

The larger revenue returns from imports and excise are clear indications of increased spending power among the people, and the whole present outlook is distinctly encouraging, and a vast change from the conditions of a few years back, when a grant of some thousands from the Imperial Treasury had to be annually made to make good the local deficit.

No changes in taxation took place during the year under review.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The excess of assets at 31st March, 1908, was £6,258.

At 31st March, 1907, the account showed an excess of £2,964. From this last sum, however, £741 is to be deducted, which amount was paid back to the Imperial Treasury on account of an excess of deficit grant received in previous years. The remainder, £2,223, with the £4,035 profit on the year added, gives the £6,258 above mentioned.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt of the Colony at 31st March, 1908, stood at £3,550, as against £4,150 at the end of the previous financial year. Of the above sum, however, the amount for which the Colonial revenue is actually liable is £600 only, which will be redeemed by 1910. The remainder, though guaranteed by the Colony, is repayable from the municipal funds of the towns of Kingstown and Georgetown.

In the same way the Colony is responsible for the unpaid balance of the Hurricane Loan to planters from the Imperial Treasury, which is £12,861 12s. 0d. This last is being steadily paid off by the borrowers at the rate of about £750 per annum to the local Government, by which annual payments are in turn made to the Imperial Treasury through the Crown Agents.

CURRENCY.

Gold, American and British, notes of the Colonial Bank, and British silver and copper constitute the currency of the Island.

The Government's accounts are kept in sterling, and commercial accounts in dollars and cents.

FINANCES OF MUNICIPALITIES.

The management of the affairs of the town of Kingstown is vested in a Board, one-half of the members of which body are elected by the ratepayers and the other half nominated by the Government. The small towns of the Colony are controlled by Wardens, appointed annually by the Government.

The following comparative statements give the total revenue and expenditure of these towns for the last five years:—

Revenue.

Town.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	£	£	£	£	£
Kingstown	1,873*	1,657	1,664	1,708	1,706
Georgetown	90	164	137	105	108
Chateaubelair	27	23	32	34	34
Calliaqua	36	31	38	35	31
Barrouallie	38	29	33	40	45
Layou	28	16	19	18	19
Bequia	6	15	11	10	9

* Inclusive of £201, 1902 revenue, not passed to account till 3rd January, 1903.

Expenditure.

Town.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	£	£	£	£	£
Kingstown	1,609	1,650	1,472	1,698	1,758
Georgetown	137	120	103	102	108
Chateaubelair	31	26	24	28	28
Calliaqua	33	40	24	52	30
Barrouallie	20	27	20	34	31
Layou	23	34	19	12	9
Bequia	7	4	10	27	2

Debts of Towns.

The debts of the towns at 31st December, 1907, were as follows:—

	£	£
Kingstown water supply	2,400	
Kingstown town improvement	250	
	2,650	
Georgetown water supply	300	
	£2,950	

Provision for repayment of these loans is made by rates levied annually on the townspeople, and the debts are secured on the general revenue of the Colony. The Kingstown water supply loan is being repaid at a rate varying from £200 to £400 per annum, the town improvement loan at the rate of £50 per annum, and the Georgetown loan by annual instalments of £50.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following comparative statement gives the value of the chief articles of import in 1907-8 and the previous year:—

Imports.

Chief Articles.	Value.	
	1906-7.	1907-8.
Class I.—	£	£
Beef, salted or cured	382	545
Biscuits	1,611	2,548
Butter	1,654	1,711
Coffee	357	392
Fish, salted, &c.	5,954	5,911
Flour, wheaten	8,386	10,400
Flour, other kinds	567	708
Oilmeal and cake	345	435
Pork, salted	1,917	2,129
Rice	2,279	2,702
Salt	315	320
Spirits	868	981
Sugar, muscovado	126	139
Sugar, refined	436	633
Sugar, crystallized	212	202
Wine	570	785
Food and drink supplies, unenumerated	939	1,262
Tobacco, cigars, &c.	889	1,038
Class II.—		
Manure	581	822
Petroleum oil	1,383	1,400
Timber and shingles	7,000	7,270
Class III.—		
Textile manufactures, other than rope, cordage, and canvas.	16,581	22,021
Metal, manufactured	5,922	10,091
Boots and shoes	958	1,001
Cement	467	571
Rope, cordage, and canvas	1,134	1,540
Soap	1,569	1,747
Articles unenumerated, other than textiles or metal manufactures.	2,817	3,979

These figures are clear evidence of the general improvement that has taken place.

The annual report of the Supervisor of Customs shows an increase in value of imports of £18,546 compared with the figures of 1906-7, the distribution being as follows:—

Increase from the United Kingdom	...	9,154
„ „ British Colonies	...	9,565
		£18,719
Decrease from Foreign Countries	...	173
		£18,546

The direct import trade from Canada and the United States seems practically stationary, the figures being £8,273 and £16,686, respectively, as against £8,145 and £17,319 in 1906-7. The increase from the British West Indies is £9,450, made up chiefly of merchandize of United States origin obtained at Barbados.

The value of the principal exports is given in the annexed table:—

Exports.

Articles.	1906-7.	1907-8.
	£	£
Cassava starch	1,439	1,296
Whale oil	250	446
Turtle shell	433	449
Firewood	493	742
Cotton and cotton seed	18,949	33,133
Vegetables	2,690	2,213
Syrup	452	550
Sugar, muscovado	3,555	3,172
Pease	689	504
Molasses	1,111	889
Rum... ..	—	99
Ground-nuts	1,929	1,589
Live stock	5,192	4,781
Fresh fruit	38	65
Farine	286	174
Arrowroot	24,351	25,555
Cocoa	3,838	4,960

The satisfactory feature of the above is the large increase in the output of cotton, and the steady rise in the cocoa figure. The larger cotton cultivation accounts to some extent for the smaller export of vegetables, pease, ground-nuts, &c.

The total imports and exports for the five years 1903-4 to 1907-8 are given below:—

Imports.

Classes.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.
	£	£	£	£	£
I. Live animals, food, drink, &c.	31,643	32,534	31,575	32,000	33,864
II. Raw materials... ..	10,076	8,628	6,566	12,268	11,175
III. Manufactured articles	36,134	33,076	30,956	33,740	46,515
Total	77,853	74,238	69,097	78,008	96,554

Exports.

Classes.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.
	£	£	£	£	£
I. Live animals, food, drink, &c.	33,023	43,374	40,935	46,393	45,972
II. Raw materials... ..	3,572	6,648	10,289	21,899	36,120
III. Manufactured articles	1,579	1,880	1,854	15,463*	12,173†
Total	38,174	51,902	53,078	83,755	94,265

* Includes £13,200 specie.

† Includes £10,000 specie.

The volume and direction of the Colony's trade in the five years 1903-4 to 1907-8 are shown in the following tables:—

Imports.

—	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	31,146	28,816	25,471	27,126	36,280
British Colonies	26,162	29,562	30,691	32,870	42,436
Foreign Countries	20,545	15,860	12,935	18,012	17,839
Total	77,853	74,238	69,097	78,008	96,554

Exports.

—	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	19,204	22,192	24,405	39,878	52,718
British Colonies	16,470	26,881	27,920	43,184	40,535
Foreign Countries	2,499	2,829	753	693	1,012
Total	38,173	51,902	53,078	83,755	94,265

MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

The Grenadines whalers had a better year, and the export of whale oil rose from 5,824 gallons, valued at £250, in 1906-7, to 9,632 gallons, of the value of £446, in 1907-8.

The Central Cotton Ginnery erected in 1903-4 still remains under the successful management of the officers of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. The rate charged for ginning and baling is 1*d.* per lb., and the profit on the handling of the crop amounted to about £600.

The lint again secured the best price in the English market, but prices have unfortunately been very much lower than before, averaging from 1*s.* 3*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* as against 1*s.* 11*d.* to 2*s.* 5*d.*

One new private ginnery has been established in Kingstown with three gins, which has been of assistance in handling the largely increased crop, and another, with two gins, is at work on the leeward side of the island.

The disintegrator for crushing cotton seed has been used to some extent, one proprietor having some forty odd tons of seed crushed for the purpose of manure for his cotton lands.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Arrowroot still holds the first place in area of cultivation, but cotton this year has overtopped it in value as an export.

The Sea Island cotton export in 1907-8 was 388,833 lbs. as against 225,632 lbs. in the year previous, the area in cultivation being 3,200 and 1,534 acres respectively.

The yield did not quite come up to the anticipations, and planters are learning the lesson that land *must* be well selected, prepared, and manured, and the cultivation most scrupulously cared for in all stages if the best results are to be obtained.

It is greatly to be hoped that some improvement in price will take place before the next crop sales, and as the serious fall has been attributed to the general money disturbance occasioned by the recent American crisis, whereby the demand for the extra fine goods for which this quality of cotton is required has temporarily diminished, there are reasonable expectations that the sale conditions at the end of this year will be better.

The sugar industry may be said to be only just alive. Some cultivation there must always be for the sake of the rum manufacture, and as an incentive to attract and keep a supply of labour, but except for an output from the Carib country, where 160 odd acres have been put in by the proprietor in canes as a first step to the restoration of the land, the prospect of any large agricultural activity in this direction is practically nil.

As indicated, the proprietor of the Carib Country Estates has at last started on the work of restoration, and considerable progress in this direction has been made. A grant of £1,600 from the balance of the Eruption Fund to assist in

putting back the water supply canal, on which these lands are entirely dependent, was approved at the beginning of the present year, and the work is now nearly complete.

On the Land Settlement Estates matters are progressing fairly, and this year an appreciable quantity of cocoa from the various small holdings was marketed.

Anthrax still continues to be a serious trouble, and the question of the further action to be taken in dealing with it is now under consideration.

The Crown land which the Government has for disposal is nearly all mountain land, for the most part suitable for provision-grounds only. The price varies from £1 to something over £3 according to locality and nature of the land and whether purchase is arranged for by cash or instalments.

The amount of Crown land proper granted during 1907-8 was 68 acres, the number of grants issued being 21 as against 55 in the previous year; while of eruption lands (the latter being the estates acquired from the Eruption Fund in 1902 for location of refugees, on which, however, there were numerous tenants found, many of whom have since acquired their holdings) grants were issued to 34 persons, of which 33 were for small lots and one for a house-spot.

The revenue from sales and rental of Crown lands, not including eruption estates, was £460, as against £407 in the previous year; whilst the revenue from the eruption lands aggregated £167, as against £233 in the previous year.

SHIPPING.

A table of the entries and clearances of steamers and sailing vessels during the years 1906-7 and 1907-8 is annexed, as also a comparative statement of the total shipping for the last five years. These figures do not include ships-of-war, of which three British and one Italian visited the Colony during the year:—

Sailing Vessels.

Nationality.	1906-7.				1907-8.			
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British ...	394	9,563	386	9,545	410	11,575	410	10,180
United States; ...	1	720	1	720	—	—	—	—
Venezuelan ...	1	18	1	18	2	36	2	36
Dutch ...	3	185	3	185	2	134	3	193
Norwegian ...	1	457	1	457	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	400	10,943	392	10,925	414	11,745	415	10,409

Steamers.

Nationality.	1906-7.				1907-8.			
	Inwards.		Outwards.		Inwards.		Outwards.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
British	99	143,145	99	143,145	96	135,533	96	135,533
Danish	—	—	—	—	4	6,379	4	6,379
Totals	99	143,145	99	143,145	100	141,912	100	141,912

Total Shipping for last Five Years.

—	January, 1903, to March, 1904.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.
Inwards	Tons. 217,601	Tons. 249,341	Tons. 235,153	Tons. 154,088	Tons. 153,657
Outwards	217,876	249,246	235,366	154,070	152,321
Totals	435,477	498,587	470,519	308,158	305,978

III.—LEGISLATION.

Eight Ordinances were passed during the year 1907, but none were of any major importance.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The results of primary education in 1906-7 and 1907-8 compare as follows:—

—					1906-7.	1907-8.
Number of schools	...	...	...	...	27	27
Number on roll	...	...	...	...	4,876*	4,578*
Average attendance	...	...	...	...	2,162	2,265
					£	£
Government grant-in-aid	...	...	...	...	1,354	1,357

* During the March quarter of the year.

The grant-in-aid of secondary education was withdrawn at the close of the financial year 1904-5 owing to financial stress. It is intended, however, to re-open a secondary school shortly with a resident master, who will combine this duty with those of Inspector of Schools.

The average number of pupils on the books of the Agricultural School was 24.

This institution is now beginning to be more largely appreciated, but it is unfortunate that the standards of intelligence and education of the boys whose parents apply for their admission are not higher. Notwithstanding this, however, the senior prize, offered for competition between the pupils of the senior classes at the three schools at St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Dominica, was awarded to a St. Vincent pupil.

Two pupils left and took useful places on estates in the island.

The small stock farm continued to be worked satisfactorily and affords valuable opportunities for training the boys.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

During the year there were 610 admissions to the Colonial Hospital, making, with those remaining from the previous year, 656 cases treated, as against a total of 744 in the previous year.

The daily average was 55, as against 52·4, 55·8 and 55 in the previous three years.

The death-rate was 6·5 of the total cases.

Operations numbered 153 as against 238 in the previous year.

The Medical Officer-in-Charge is greatly assisted in his work by the presence of an efficient European nurse-matron, selected by the Colonial Nursing Association, whose services are of great value.

A portion of the old military citadel at Fort Charlotte is available for detention of male lunatics who are violent or manifest destructive tendencies; other males, as to whom it is judged that they may be so treated with safety, are kept under supervision in the pauper asylum, and female lunatics are also detained there. A portion of the wards is partitioned off into cells to provide further and more suitable accommodation for these female cases, some of which are occasionally acute.

As soon as practicable any violent or difficult case is sent to the asylum at Grenada, but sometimes that institution has not got the requisite accommodation, and the transfer is delayed.

There were 15 cases under treatment during the year (ten being new admissions), of whom one was discharged cured, one died, and three were transferred to the Grenada Asylum. The total number of St. Vincent lunatics under care there was 28, at a cost to the Colony of £457.

The numbers of inmates of the Leper Asylum on the 31st March, 1907, was 7, of whom one died during the year. There were no admissions. There is no compulsory segregation of lepers.

The Colony's paupers are housed in the old military buildings at Fort Charlotte, on a considerable elevation commanding the town of Kingstown.

There were 95 inmates on 31st March, 1907, and the admissions and discharges in 1907-8 were:—

			Male.		Female.		Total.
Admissions	...	...	21	...	30	...	51
Discharged	...	...	8	...	10	...	18
Died	...	...	18	...	17	...	35
			26	...	27	...	53

leaving 93 on 31st March, 1908.

The total expenditure in 1907-8 was £919 on the poor-house, including the cost of lepers and lunatics kept locally, as against £969 in 1906-7.

Chronic tertiary syphilis accounts for the vast majority of cases to whom this institution offers asylum for the closing stages of their lives.

SAVINGS BANKS.

The following is a statement of the work of the Bank for the last five calendar years:—

Year.	Number of Depositors at 31st December.	Amount of Deposits.	Amount of Withdrawals.	Balance at Credit of Depositors at 31st December (including Interest Capitalized).
		£	£	£
1903	987	6,587	6,171	12,653
1904	976	5,012	5,467	12,465
1905	933	4,883	5,276	12,232
1906	907	5,282	5,687	12,095
1907	1,010	7,629	6,757	18,247

Up to 1900 the bank was established in Kingstown only, but in that year branches were opened at the small towns of Chateaubelair and Georgetown.

The amount due to depositors was distributed thus:—

	At 31st December, 1906	At 31st December, 1907
Kingstown ...	£10,914	£11,837
Georgetown ...	635	828
Chateaubelair ...	546	582
Totals ...	£12,095	£13,247

The Government made a profit on the working of the bank of £131.

There was invested of Savings Bank funds at 31st December, 1907, £11,997.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

The St. Vincent Police Force consisted of a chief, a sergeant-major of European birth, late of the Royal Irish Constabulary, and 48 West Indian non-commissioned officers and privates. This number has been now increased to 50.

They are drilled and have some training in the use of arms, and are supplied with Martini-Enfield rifles.

In addition to ordinary police work, they are charged with many duties in connection with current details of administration, such as excise supervision, district post office work, births and deaths registration, poor relief, and the management of district telephone exchanges.

Furthermore, the Prison is worked entirely by the police, save for the assistance of one warder in charge of gangs at labour outside. A non-commissioned officer and a certain number of privates are told off from time to time for this duty, constant supervision being, of course, exercised by the sergeant-major and chief.

In Kingstown, a select number of the force form a fire brigade for the town, receiving supplementary pay for this service from the funds of the Town Board.

It will thus be seen that the small force of police in St. Vincent have little time for idling, and to this in some measure is probably attributable their acknowledged efficiency.

In July of 1907, Mr. F. W. Griffith, who had been acting as Chief of Police since early in 1905, and whose energy and success in the suppression of illicit distillation has been marked, was confirmed in the office.

During the disturbances which occurred in April in the neighbouring island of St. Lucia, an armed force of 25 police from here, under command of the sergeant-major, were sent across at a day's notice to supplement the available force there. The men responded eagerly to the call, and behaved excellently, rendering useful assistance, which was much appreciated.

The number of committals to prison in the year was unusually large, namely, 221 men, 73 women, and 12 juveniles, in all 306. The daily average was 34·7, against 12 in the previous year.

No special reasons are assigned by the Chief of Police in his report for this increase, beyond the presence for five months of the time of sixteen prisoners from St. Lucia, convicted of participation in the riotous disturbance which took place there in April. It is not unusual, however, in the West Indies, to find the prison average rising with increased general prosperity.

The practice of sending prisoners with sentences of over two years to serve their time in the Penitentiary at Grenada was also discontinued.

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates in 1907-8 was 1,015, against 982 in the previous year.

Of the offences reported in 1907-8, 251 were for offences against the person, 50 were for prædial larceny, 169 were for offences against property other than prædial larceny; 545 were for other offences.

The total number of convictions in the Inferior Courts is returned as 676, against 680 in the previous year.

These convictions are classed as follows:—117 for offences against the person, one for malicious injuries to property, 36 for prædial larceny, 108 for offences against property other than prædial larceny, 220 for offences against Revenue Acts, &c., and 194 for other offences.

The convictions in the Supreme Court were as follows:—7 for offences against property, and 5 for other offences.

The acquittals were as follows:—In the Inferior Courts, 128; in the Supreme Court, 1.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The population at the 1891 census was 41,054. No census was taken in 1901 on account of the expense involved, which the Colony was not in a position to afford. By the estimate

of the Registrar-General, the population at 31st March, 1908, was 51,779. This figure, however, as explained in previous reports, is generally considered to be unreliable, as it takes no account of the flow of emigration, which, during the past few years, has been very considerable in consequence of the exodus of labourers to Panama.

The births registered in 1907-8 were 1,668—849 male and 819 female—as against 1,768 in 1906-7. Of these, 947, or 56·77 per cent. were illegitimate.

Still births were 112—37 legitimate and 75 illegitimate; the figures for the previous year having been 37 and 67, respectively.

Marriages were 179, an increase of 38 on last year's figures. The figures are given in the following comparative table of marriages:—

Denomination.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.
Church of England	84	64	78
Roman Catholic	10	23	22
Wesleyan	96	46	68
Church of Scotland	6	6	11
Plymouth Brethern	—	2	—

The total registered deaths were 898, as against 929 in 1906-7, being 17·34 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The infant mortality (infants under one year, exclusive of still births) was 230, being 25·61 per cent. of the whole. The similar figure in 1906-7 was 311, or 33·47.

The public health was more satisfactory than during the previous year. The following table of causes of death is interesting:—

Causes of Death.

General diseases (includes syphilis 154, tubercle 55, tetanus 27, malarial fevers 17)	345
Diseases of nervous system	30
" " circulatory system	33
" " respiratory " 	35
" " digestive " 	162
Parasites	39
Age	70
Still-born	112
Other diseases	72
Total	898

ST. VINCENT, 1907-8.

The rainfall for the year 1907-8 was 93·17 inches, as against 104·45 inches in 1906-7.

Rain fell on 301 days throughout the year.

The maximum fall in one day was 2·75 inches, on 15th November.

December was the wettest month, with 12·26 inches, and March the driest, with only 3·06 inches.

The mean monthly temperature was 77·7° F. Maximum for the year 88° F., which was experienced, curiously enough, in April, October, November and February, and minimum, 64° F., in February.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

The fortnightly intercolonial mail service performed by the Royal Mail Steamers was discontinued for a few weeks in May and June, but has, since then, been regularly carried on, a new contract therefor extending over a period of ten years having been entered into in August last.

The steamers of the Pickford and Black Line from Halifax, Nova Scotia, under contract with the Imperial and Canadian Governments, continued to run as usual, and occasional calls were made during the year at the port of Kingstown by the steamers of the Direct and Quebec Steamship Lines.

A new line of steamers, the East Asiatic, from Copenhagen via London and the Danish West Indies, commenced calling at St. Vincent at the end of 1907.

There is an inland postal system by which the Windward District of the Colony is served three times a week, the Leeward District daily and the Grenadines weekly.

The postal order system introduced in 1904 continued to make strides in popular favour, and there was a large increase in the numbers issued.

The volume of the post office business was in excess of that of the previous year.

The revenue of the telephone department was £454, including £175 transferred to that head on account of the Government installations. The expenditure was £337. The lines run from Kingstown to Chateaubelair, on the Leeward side of the island, and to Mesopotamia and Georgetown on the Windward side, about 24 miles either way, and the service is a most useful one.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Sir Ralph Williams, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Windward Islands, visited the Colony in September, 1907, for a period of 21 days. During the absence on leave from June, 1907, to January, 1908, of the Administrator, Mr. E. J. Cameron, C.M.G., the local Government was administered by Mr. D. T. Tudor, Attorney-General of Grenada and St. Vincent.

As a result of the generosity of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, a very substantial Free Public Library Building, which will be a valuable addition to the Colony's institutions, was erected during the year by the Kingstown Board on a site belonging to that body in the town, and is now approaching completion.

Financially and industrially the year was a most satisfactory one.

The Colony has now been fairly extricated from the slough of impecuniosity in which it has been floundering for so many years. The financial returns show that a clear profit of over £4,000 was made during the year, and there are not wanting signs of further revenue expansion.

With a small but useful surplus of £6,000 in reserve and practically no debt, collections well in hand, and the contributory support of a variety of special funds, the income of which is available to supplement and so relieve current resources in certain directions, the pecuniary position of St. Vincent may, I think, be looked on as reasonably secure, for some years to come at any rate.

In arriving at this result, however, the Colony has, perforce, had to be somewhat starved; and it is pleasant, therefore, to record that the current year's Estimates make provision for various matters, such as further medical aid, secondary education, cable news subsidy, and other smaller amenities, which for some time past have had to be done without.

During the year 1907-8 the total area of land in the Colony under cultivation, including peasant agriculture, was larger than has been the case for very many years past.

The first steps were also taken last autumn towards resuscitation of the Carib Country, the large tract of valuable land at the north-east of the island that was devastated by the 1902 volcanic eruption, and at the present time the restoration of the destroyed water supply is almost complete. A large amount of labour has been and will continue to be employed here, and the local supply is scarcely equal to the demand.

The natural result of these conditions has been to place considerably more money in circulation, and to increase the purchasing power and comfort of the labouring class, bringing with such increase added contentment.

The policy of road-improvement which has been steadily pursued, and particularly the provision to the peasants of readier and improved means of access to and from the Crown and Land Settlement and other lands owned and worked by them, has certainly been a powerful contributing factor to

St. Vincent
West Indies



this contentment. The latest work of this kind has been in the upper recesses of the Buccament Valley, where bush tracks have now been replaced by decent bridle-paths, down which a donkey-load of provisions may conveniently be brought, and which, moreover, admit of these lands and the general conditions being taken cognizance of by visiting officers.

A great deal, however, as regards the continuance and further development of the present quiet prosperity (I may now venture to use a term which strikes rather strangely on the ear in connection with St. Vincent), hinges on the future of the cotton industry and whether a more remunerative figure than that of last year will be forthcoming for the staple in the future, such as will encourage the estate owners to extend the cultivation and to expend on the land the requisite preparation, care, and supervision, with, of course, the attendant expense, which the industry demands to ensure its continued successful exploitation, and without which the quality of the product cannot be maintained.

It is unfortunate that the Colony is so little visited by the travelling public, but the present arrangements, under which the Royal Mail Steamers arrive at the port of Kingstown only at night, coupled with the absence of any first-class hotel accommodation, are serious obstacles to this. St. Vincent is an exceedingly beautiful and a very healthy island, with a good and pleasant climate, especially in the winter months; and it has the advantage over islands of similar mountainous formation, of considerable general accessibility, possessing a good carriage road for some 37 miles round the coast, and a regular net-work of easy bridle-roads through a large proportion of the interior.

In its Soufrière volcano it possesses a natural feature of absorbing interest. The ascent of this mountain is now quite easily compassed, and the magnificent prospect at the crater's summit is well worth the slight fatigue involved.

Lack of suitable accommodation off the beaten track is, of course, the drawback, but any enterprising traveller in good health and of reasonable activity and not too exigent, who may be wishful to have an experience of West Indian ways and scenes, might do much worse than spend a fortnight in investigating the many natural beauties which he will find here.

A sketch-map of St. Vincent is attached to this report, which has on it various notes of interest, and will serve to a fuller understanding by the average reader of the configuration, size, and settlement of the Colony and its exact location.

EDWARD J. CAMERON,

Administrator.

25th July, 1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony &c.	Year.
543	Bahamas	1906-1907
544	Barbados	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago	"
546	Grenada	"
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
549	Jamaica	1906-1907
550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia... ..	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906-1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar	"
564	Ashanti	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907-1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907
567	Seychelles	"
568	Bermuda... ..	"
569	Weihaiwei	"
570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta	1907-1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907-1908
575	Bahamas... ..	"
576	Gambia	1907

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony &c.	Subject.
44	East Africa Protectorate ...	Survey Department.
45	Do. do. ...	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey (1904-5).
47	Do. do. ...	Do. (1905-6).
48	Nyasaland Protectorate ...	Do.
49	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c. ...	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria ...	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa ...	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907-8.
54	Newfoundland ...	Governor's Visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony ...	Rietfontein Area.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 567.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 520.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
August, 1908.



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ANNEXURE.

REPORT BY THE CURATOR OF THE BOTANIC STATION, FOR THE
YEAR 1907 29

No. 567.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 520.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

Seychelles,

3rd May, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit my report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1907, to which is annexed a report by Mr. R. Dupont, the Curator of the Botanic Station.

I have, &c.,

W. E. DAVIDSON,

Governor.

The Right Honourable

The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR 1907.

I.—FINANCIAL.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

1. The revenue of the Colony in 1907 amounted to Rs. 501,293, a total in excess of the Estimate by Rs. 115,418 and of the actual receipts in 1906 by Rs. 82,361.

2. The expenditure of the Colony in 1907 amounted to Rs. 381,029, representing under the estimates an excess of Rs. 5,331, and as compared with the actual expenditure of 1906, an excess of Rs. 10,057.

The actual revenue in 1907 exceeded the actual expenditure by Rs. 120,265.

The revenue for 1908 has been estimated at Rs. 490,860, and the expenditure has been fixed at Rs. 477,688.50.

3. The following table gives the total revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.			Revenue.	Expenditure.
			Rs.	Rs.
1903	...	...	467,668	516,331
1904	...	...	383,096	447,939
1905	...	...	375,779	393,691
1906	...	...	419,932	370,971
1907	...	...	501,293	381,029

4. The revenue and expenditure of the Local Boards of Health established for the Central District (town of Victoria) for the South Mahé District, and for the Islands of Praslin and La Digue, are now included in the general statements of revenue and expenditure. In terms of Ordinance No. 32 of 1902, the Local Boards have no longer separate funds of their own, and their expenditure is limited by annual votes of the Legislature. These Boards, constituted under the provisions of Ordinance No. 31 of 1900, are composed of a number of the most prominent persons, unofficial and official, whose interests are identified with those of the respective districts, under nomination by the Governor. Large powers of self-government entrusted to them have been wisely and satisfactorily used.

The votes allocated to the Local Boards in the Estimates for 1907 are as follows:—

Name of Boards.	Amount.	Actual Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
Central District	15,648	14,404
South Mahé	3,557	3,503
Praslin	2,000	1,579
La Digue	1,500	1,241
Total	22,705	20,767

The grants for 1908 have been fixed at Rs. 25,267.

Details of Revenue 1906 and 1907.

The following table gives the details of revenue for the years 1906 and 1907:—

Head of Receipts.	1906.	1907.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
1. Customs	179,585 87	257,011 15
2. Pilotage and Harbour Dues	6,349 90	8,120 40
3. Licences, &c.	48,894 78	56,989 48
4. Taxes	53,474 59	46,549 13
5. Fees of Court, &c.	36,063 33	32,952 25
6. Post Office	22,032 70	17,206 05
7. Rents of Government Property	17,384 65	17,585 26
8. Interest	12,450 11	9,705 91
9. Miscellaneous	42,696 08	54,413 07
10. Land Sales	1,000 00	760 00
Total	419,932 01	501,292 70

6. The very great increase in Customs receipts was due to the increased purchasing power arising from the heavy yield and high prices of copra, followed by a large harvest of vanilla also selling at a high figure. Moreover, the systematic development of the guano and mangrove bark industries in certain outlying islands involved the importation of building material, machinery, and food stuffs on a large scale.

The revised arrangement of direct taxes under the provisions of Ordinances No. 13 of 1906 and No. 1 of 1907 yielded Rs. 58,940 (partly credited to Customs and Licences), against an Estimate of Rs. 54,000, and as compared with Rs. 51,641 raised under the local rate and Income Tax Ordinance No. 16 of 1900.

The increase under the head "Miscellaneous" is due to royalty on guano taken from Crown Lands (Rs. 37,381) and rent of Crown Lands leased (Rs. 16,772). The exportation of guano yielded to revenue a sum of Rs. 50,564, inclusive of

the export duty of R. 1 per ton. It is anticipated that the deposits available may yield 20,000 tons annually for twenty years. The items which composed this account will in future be classified separately, as it is intended to build up from this source during the next five years a sum equal to a normal year's revenue, both by reason of its being the proceeds of an extraordinary source of income and because of the violent fluctuations in revenue arising from the uncertain yield and prices of the vanilla industry.

The revenue is at present raised as follows:—

Direct taxation, 25 per cent.

Indirect taxation, 38 per cent.

Revenue from Crown Lands, 30 per cent.

Specific services rendered, 7 per cent.

The direct and indirect taxation represent a contribution of about Rs. 15 or one pound sterling per head of the population, which is low compared to the revenue raised elsewhere in communities of similar population and conditions.

Details of Expenditure 1906 and 1907.

7. The following table gives the details of the expenditure in 1906 and 1907:—

Heads of Service.	1906.		1907.	
	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt ...	14,816	25	14,816	25
2. Pensions and Gratuities	12,147	75	14,090	78
3. Governor and Legislature	23,689	69	25,276	76
4. Treasury, Customs, and Revenue Department.	18,411	96	20,683	34
5. Audit Department	5,507	81	6,290	22
6. Port, Marine, and Lighthouse Department	15,243	73	16,879	11
7. Legal Department	33,913	83	30,588	02
8. Police Department	32,677	25	33,901	77
9. Prison	12,110	36	9,750	69
10. Medical Department and Quarantine ...	32,862	69	31,568	04
11. Ecclesiastical Department	9,029	17	9,750	00
12. Education Department	25,733	88	27,305	95
13. Printing Department	2,728	37	3,053	98
14. Post Office Department	11,980	16	9,797	10
15. Transport	2,467	13	—	—
16. Botanic Station and Crown Lands Department.	9,996	53	15,275	42
17. Local Board, Central District	14,883	10	14,404	16
18. do. South Mahé	3,495	17	3,503	44
19. do. Praslin	1,545	69	1,579	28
20. do. La Digue	1,330	40	1,240	47
21. Exchange and cost of Remittances ...	9,475	94	2,500	77
22. Miscellaneous	7,339	10	15,528	66
23. Telegraphs and Steamer Subsidies ...	43,800	00	43,800	00
24. Public Works Department	9,613	64	9,973	79
25. do. Recurrent	11,501	44	12,449	64
26. do. Extraordinary	4,670	30	7,021	39
Total	370,971	34	381,029	33

8. The policy of rigorous retrenchment followed for the past three years was slightly relaxed during 1907, but the principle was adhered to of limiting normal expenditure to Rs. 350,000

The largest item of excess over the estimate, under the head "Botanic Station" (Rs. 5,279), was wholly due to the cost of introduction of Para rubber seeds and seedlings, for distribution among planters in order to form a further line of defence by way of supplementary resources. Many kinds of rubber are now introduced; most varieties grow well, and *Hevea* in particular has flowered and fruited in its fourth year.

The nominal increase under "Miscellaneous" (Rs. 8,190) is a matter of accounts, being rebate of R. 1 per ton under the agreement with the Mahé Syndicate which takes effect after the export of guano has reached 5,000 tons in one year. The decrease under the head "Interest" (Rs. 6,975) is due to the Colony having paid off its floating debt with the Crown Agents.

9. The following table shows the surplus of assets over liabilities from 1903:—

Year.				Amount.	
				Rs.	Cts.
1903	...	...	...	224,910	40
1904	...	...	...	160,007	33
1905	...	...	...	141,509	62
1906	...	...	...	175,432	96
1907	...	...	...	292,875	18

The assets are represented by Rs. 140,272 in cash and Rs. 327,076 in investments, viz., Rs. 250,776 in British and Colonial stock and Rs. 76,300 invested locally at 6 per cent. on the security of first mortgage on real estate under the provisions of the Loan to Planters Ordinance No. 4 of 1904. Advances due represent Rs. 14,080, and remittances in transit (Rs. 31,510).

The liabilities are represented by Savings Bank and other deposits (Rs. 209,089) and sundry unsettled advances (Rs. 10,974).

10. The public debt, which consists of a loan of £20,000 negotiated in 1899, is repayable, with interest at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., in thirty annual instalments of £987 15s. 9d. (Rs. 14,816.25), of which seven have now been paid. This liability now stands at Rs. 250,065.58.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

11. In the following table is given the total value of imports and exports, with and without specie, for the last seven years:—

Year.			Imports without specie	Imports with specie.	Exports without specie.	Exports with specie.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1901	...	...	1,149,646	1,210,646	1,417,515	1,483,245
1902	...	...	861,159	943,819	1,094,268	1,237,405
1903	...	...	966,641	1,024,641	825,525	968,325
1904	...	...	829,211	905,171	724,187	801,894
1905	...	...	789,785	823,452	808,032	848,744
1906	...	...	811,366	916,397	794,681	807,781
1907	...	...	1,364,787	1,174,412	2,270,520	2,270,820

The striking disparity between the bulk of the exports (2½ millions) and the imports (1½ millions) is due to several causes, viz., the reduction of debts and overdrafts in Europe, the non-receipt of the value for the vanilla exported in the last months of 1906 but not realised until the following year, and the unpreparedness of the community to lay out to advantage the unlooked-for increase in income.

Inclusive of the importation of Rupees (Rs. 190,375) and the consignment of Rs. 300 to South Africa, the movements of cash in lieu of goods may be computed as follows:—

			Imported.	Exported.
			Rs.	Rs.
Specie	...	...	190,375	300
Notes in insured letters			183,965	29,880
Money Orders	...	...	12,435	73,061
British Postal Orders	...		897	2,867
			387,672	106,108

It is probable that the receipts of money, mainly in notes of high value, exceeded the remittances by a quarter million rupees; but this fact has not lessened the inconvenience arising from the constant drain of silver as represented by the savings carried away by merchants and coolies to India. The adverse balance of trade with Bombay is settled in rupees if sufficient bills are not forthcoming.

Imports.

12. The declared value of imports in 1907 was Rs. 1,174,412, exclusive of specie to the value of Rs. 190,375. The volume and value of imports generally represent the credit of the previous year. Although the population was still very poor at the beginning of 1906, the rise in value of copra during the latter half of that year stimulated traders to renew their stocks. The importation of specie was mainly due to the financing of the Mahé Syndicate and Bacova Company, who were developing respectively a trade in phosphates and in the desiccation of coconuts.

Foodstuffs were imported to the value of Rs. 347,348; the clothing bill was Rs. 284,636; and the drink bill, as declared at the Customs, Rs. 70,693. The actual expenditure of the consumer in wine and spirits, mainly rum, cannot have been less than Rs. 250,000, or fifteen shillings a head.

13. The imports, excluding specie, when classified according to countries of origin, present the following proportions:—

From the United Kingdom, Rs. 409,866, or 35 per cent.

From British Possessions, Rs. 530,542, or 45 per cent.

From Foreign Countries, Rs. 234,004, or 20 per cent.

These proportions very closely correspond with those of 1906. Of the total, 54 per cent. passed through the Suez Canal.

14. The following comparative table indicates the movements in trade, as regards imports from the United Kingdom, British possessions, and foreign countries (specie excluded):—

Comparative Table of Imports exclusive of Specie.

—	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom... ..	259,702	257,315	409,866
India	275,122	304,912	409,504
Mauritius	73,701	61,546	102,275
Aden	13,301	16,268	13,741
Zanzibar and East Africa	2,427	426	3,021
Other British Possessions	869	4,030	2,001
France	148,949	131,702	168,849
Madagascar and Dependencies	6,771	10,429	1,668
Réunion	3,434	1,636	4,147
Germany	4,898	15,006	40,980
Other Countries	611	8,056	18,360
Total	789,785	811,366	1,174,412

British imports are of very varied character; the most important are cotton goods (Rs. 108,518), coal and patent fuel (Rs. 34,342), iron ware (Rs. 62,204), and clothing (Rs. 57,536).

From India, rice (Rs. 181,159), is the chief item, then cotton goods (Rs. 142,773), and wheat flour (Rs. 22,650). From Mauritius, sugar (Rs. 39,087) and rum (Rs. 10,650) are the principal entries; and from Aden, coffee (Rs. 13,179). From France the most prominent are wine and spirits (Rs. 47,742), clothing and articles de mode (Rs. 44,200), and cotton goods (Rs. 14,217). The article of German origin is manufactured iron (Rs. 26,878).

Exports.

15. The declared value of exports in 1907 was Rs. 2,230,520 exclusive of specie, as compared with Rs. 794,681 in 1906.

The pride of place is occupied by vanilla, which realised nearly one million rupees, as against Rs. 100,000 in 1906. Coconut products rose from Rs. 432,474 to Rs. 770,630; guano from Rs. 163,979 to Rs. 395,630. The other items remained stationary.

The following list exhausts all present resources, although it is hoped that cinnamon bark, rubber, preserved eggs, and turtle and whale oil may figure in future lists:—

Produce.				Quantity.	Value. Rs.
1. Vanilla (5)	...	...	...	kilos. 66,406	996,918
2. Copra (1)	...	...	...	tons 1,960	546,117
3. Guano (2)	...	...	...	„ 13,198	395,630
4. Coconut oil (4)	...	...	...	hectolitres 2,977	120,067
5. Soap (3)	...	...	...	tons 239	83,379
6. Tortoiseshell (6)	...	...	...	kilos. 724	30,974
7. Coconuts (7)	...	...	...	tons 618	21,057
8. Calipee (9)	...	...	...	kilos. 11,218	8,012
9. Cacao (11)	...	...	...	„ 7,897	5,152
10. Mangrove bark (12)	...	...	...	tons 132	3,049
11. Salted fish	...	...	...	kilos. 16,410	2,776
12. Wood	...	...	...	pieces 3,701	2,721
13. Coco de mer	...	...	...	nuts 3,217	2,474
14. Cloves (23)	...	...	...	kilos. 3,785	2,470
15. Essential oils (25)	..	...	...	litres 162	2,384
16. Coffee (14)	..	...	...	kilos. 3,194	1,766
17. Limes, salted	...	...	...	barrels 63	1,449
18. Trepang (13)	...	...	...	kilos. 2,351	1,000
19. Fruits, fresh (22)	...	...	...	cases 170	994
20. Desiccated bananas	...	...	...	kilos. 3,191	648
					2,230,280
Other goods in transit				...	40,540
Total Value				...	2,270,820

NOTE.—The numbers in brackets represent the position on the list in 1906.

16. The vanilla crop was above the average in quantity, was of fair quality, and sold at a high price. The vagaries of this most inconstant product are illustrated in the subjoined table. A crop which varies from 17,000 to 66,000 kilos. in consecutive seasons, owing to trifling variations in the sunshine and rainfall, and in price from Rs. 6 to Rs. 15 per kilo. cannot be calculated upon as a staple product. All proprietors plant and tend their vines, but only as a by-product which may bring much or little pocket money. I trust that the hard experience of the past few years has taught even the most thriftless to cultivate other resources.

Value, Quantity, and Average Price of Seychelles Vanilla for the last Thirteen Years.

Year.			Total Value of exports (including specie).	Quantity of vanilla exported.	Declared value of vanilla.	Average price per kilo of vanilla.
			Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Rs. cts.
1895	...	...	736,964	4,553	60,344	13 25
1896	...	...	1,569,912	31,227	936,000	29 97
1897	...	...	1,503,701	30,691	920,730	30 00
1898	...	...	1,381,514	25,177	748,810	29 74
1899	...	...	1,897,662	41,835	1,338,720	32 00
1900	...	...	1,036,161	17,569	580,877	33 06
1901	...	...	1,483,245	71,899	1,108,792	15 42
1902	...	...	1,237,405	60,862	642,331	10 55
1903	...	...	968,325	59,784	503,994	8 43
1904	...	...	801,894	41,072	300,026	7 30
1905	...	...	848,744	48,208	282,876	5 87
1906	...	...	807,781	17,118	101,818	5 95
1907	...	...	2,270,820	66,406	996,918	15 02

17. The total volume of coconut exports is, approximately 3,115 tons. The volume of copra (1,960 tons) has developed since 1905, owing to a rapid increase in value, the bulk of the export going to Marseilles. There is a corresponding decrease in the quantity of oil exported which has fallen to figures (298 tons), which are the lowest of which there is certain record; one half of the oil exported goes to Madagascar and the rest is sent to Mauritius, Bombay, and neighbouring ports.

The production of soap (239 tons) depends upon the price of oil, the principal markets being Zanzibar and Madagascar, where it has established a strong position in the face of European competition; it is probable, however, that the production will be curtailed as long as the quotations for copra remain at their present figure. The number of coconuts exported to Mauritius and Aden is reduced owing to the high prices obtained in the local market for manufacture into copra. The quantity of desiccated coconuts is included in the figures for copra. There is no industry in the production of

coir rope or fibre. Poonac, a by-product of coconut oil, is largely consumed locally for feeding stock, although not exported; and the scarcity, owing to the restricted quantity of oil prepared, is a serious inconvenience to the small farmer.

The following table shows the annual variations in the products of the coconut palm for 13 years. The total crop of nuts in 1907 is estimated at 24 millions.

Exports of Products of the Coconut Palm.

Year.	Coconut oil		Soap.		Coconuts.		Coprah.		Total value of coconut products
	Hectolitres	Rs.	Kilograms.	Rs.	No.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Rs.
1895	14,048	375,908	2,196	724	1,632,860	32,647	—	—	409,279
1896	15,122	441,882	68,388	18,015	1,293,136	26,237	—	—	486,134
1897	13,521	362,968	72,705	21,810	1,492,476	29,849	—	—	414,627
1898	8,808	236,430	189,645	56,923	1,695,230	34,094	—	—	327,447
1899	14,705	392,055	91,696	30,564	983,418	19,667	—	—	442,286
1900	12,044	268,609	159,142	35,778	1,083,302	27,524	—	—	331,911
1901	9,419	147,533	116,095	31,560	1,071,732	26,228	—	—	205,321
1902	11,326	242,343	173,476	45,990	1,117,960	24,815	5,399	827	313,148
1903	18,504	160,977	234,421	56,851	1,241,020	28,848	30,458	5,884	246,676
1904	9,919	180,045	217,432	56,439	882,044	26,021	267,260	43,744	294,249
1905	11,800	250,070	350,157	101,989	551,135	12,188	296,718	49,704	413,951
1906	4,290	123,942	419,329	129,590	376,340	9,484	899,217	169,458	432,474
1907	2,977	120,067	238,858	83,379	617,785	21,067	1,950,526	546,117	770,630

18. Guano was exported to the amount of 13,220 tons. Despite many difficulties, inseparable from work on a coral island of 340 acres without a water supply or harbourage, the development of the phosphate deposits on St. Pierre by the Mahé Syndicate, Limited, has progressed satisfactorily. It is probable that the output may reach 20,000 tons in 1910. In 1906, some 6,000 tons were collected from 10 acres. This island, which is the property of the Crown, probably contained one quarter of a million tons of guano rich in phosphoric acid but lacking nitrates. Phosphates are also being steadily worked on the Amirantes Group—also Crown property—and on North Island and Flat Island, which are private property.

There are other rich deposits which have not yet been exploited.

19. Of the other items scheduled in paragraph 15, tortoise-shell is a variable item; the number of hawksbill turtle which reach these islands depends upon the prevalence of certain capricious ocean currents. The out-turn in 1907 was only half that of 1906.

The production of dried calipee is for the London market, used in the making of turtle soup. There seems to be a certain demand.

Cacao, cloves, and coffee all grow well, but do not receive adequate attention.

There should be an excellent prospect in the harvesting of mangrove bark on Aldabra, where there are 100,000 tons of the bark of *Burghiera*, *Ceriops*, and *Rhizophora* awaiting collection. The analysis of *Burghiera* in particular is most favourable. Good results have also been obtained from *Pemphis acidula* (bois d'amande). The difficulties in the organising of this enterprise are due to the distance of the island (600 miles) from Mahé and the lack of regular steam communication, as well as to the strong tides in the central lagoon.

The distillation of essences is being seriously taken in hand and samples have been placed on the market of cinnamon bark and leaf, clove leaf oil, lemongrass and citronella oil. If it were feasible to utilise thus the forest of cinnamon trees, the venture would be of great value to the Colony. Ylang Ylang is being cultivated by several planters; also cardamoms.

A rum distillery will be in operation in 1908.

Efforts are being made to introduce the industry of citrate of lime. The venture of desiccating bananas has for the present been abandoned. The attempt to introduce the pine-apples and oranges of Seychelles for the winter season at Cairo was a failure owing to the opposition of the crew of the French mail boats.

The harvest of the sea has never yet been sufficiently studied. The sea swarms with multitudes of fish for which, when salted, there should be a steady market in Réunion and Mauritius where fish are rare. Moreover, there are ideal lagoons for the culture of pearl shell and sponges.

20. Subjoined is a table showing the immediate destination of exports (including specie) and the declared value at the Customs, for the last seven years:—

*Comparative Table of Exports to Principal Countries,
1901 to 1907.*

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	537,135	396,953	350,565	169,873	197,602	114,177	648,906
France	563,902	294,094	192,900	228,978	202,478	263,712	936,667
Mauritius and Réunion.	205,266	267,646	239,249	166,004	134,029	59,936	130,640
India and Aden	78,354	132,510	67,939	131,176	82,278	66,899	168,257
African Ports ..	24,990	51,694	63,054	40,701	58,072	78,805	51,368
Madagascar	29,225	43,396	30,733	29,861	98,334	119,646	70,833
Other Countries	44,373	51,112	18,885	55,302	25,961	105,606	264,149
Total ...	1,483,245	1,237,405	968,325	801,895	848,744	807,781	2,270,820

21. To the United Kingdom, the principal items exported are: vanilla, Rs. 454,361; guano, Rs. 123,000; copra, Rs. 43,277; tortoise shell, Rs. 11,987; calipee, Rs. 7,677; Cacao, Rs. 3,554. Total Rs. 648,906.

22. The exports to British Possessions are as follows:—To India, Rs. 151,390; viz., copra (Rs. 118,418) and coconut oil (Rs. 24,250). To Mauritius, Rs. 109,284; viz., guano (Rs. 36,300), coconut oil (Rs. 31,389), coconuts (Rs. 9,138), soap (Rs. 5,299), and copra (Rs. 1,966). To Zanzibar, Rs. 51,108, of which soap (Rs. 44,664) is the principal item. To Aden, Rs. 16,867; chiefly coconut oil (Rs. 14,627). To Mombassa, Rs. 260 in coconuts. To Hong Kong, Rs. 1,055; in trepang (Rs. 1,000). To New Zealand, Rs. 34,500, in guano. To Natal, Rs. 20; and to Australia, Rs. 10. The total British Possessions is Rs. 364,494; and to all places under the British flag Rs. 1,013,400.

23. The exports to France amount to Rs. 936,667; viz., vanilla (Rs. 531,064); copra (Rs. 375,256); and tortoiseshell (Rs. 18,487). To Madagascar, Rs. 70,833; mainly, soap (Rs. 33,416) and coconut oil (Rs. 28,618). To Réunion, Rs. 21,356, viz., coconut oil (Rs. 15,833) salted fish, and limes. Total to France and French Possessions, Rs. 1,028,856.

24. To other foreign countries the total is Rs. 219,034; viz., to Belgium, guano declared at Rs. 166,220. To Holland, guano declared at Rs. 33,570. To Germany, Rs. 17,746; viz., vanilla (Rs. 9,995), and copra (Rs. 7,200). To Switzerland, vanilla declared at Rs. 1,498.

(B.) MANUFACTURES.

25. Considerable progress has been made in manufactures. Soap boilers have turned out for export half a million pounds of soap of an excellent quality, besides supplying the needs of the Colony.

Three factories for desiccation of coconuts have been established with new and improved machinery.

A rum distillery is in course of erection; and the distillation of essential oils has been attempted, and subsidiary industries may eventually be established in this connection. Coconut oil is prepared and copra is dried on every estate; the mills are primitive and wasteful, but produce a good article. Vanilla, coffee, cacao, and cloves are cured and prepared for the market on a number of estates.

26. Engineering works, established in 1905, adjoining the long pier, have been enlarged and developed; repairs to sailing ships and engine room fittings are undertaken; a steam tug is in course of construction, and a motor engine has been installed on a trading schooner owned in Mahé. An ice factory has been set up in the same connection.

27. The coaling business of the port has advanced greatly in efficiency; recent improvements have led to the handling of

300 to 400 tons in a working day; a maximum quantity of 525 tons was recently placed on board a Dutch man-of-war.

28. There is great need for small steamers or steam trawlers to maintain speedy and regular communication with the islands on which industrial centres have been established. It is probable that several more of the locally-owned schooners will be fitted with petroleum motor engines.

(C.) FISHERIES.

29. All the natives of Seychelles are skilled sailors, and most families on the shore own pirogues—as the small fishing boats are called—and inter-island communication is carried on by means of half-decked sailing boats and whale boats. The more distant islands are served by a steam trawler of 46 tons, and a fleet of schooners ranging from 10 to 100 tons.

Fish and green turtle (*Chelonia Mydas*) take the place of meat, and large quantities are consumed fresh. The banks on which the various archipelagos are situated swarm with fish of many varieties, and recent legislation has removed many restrictions on the trade in salted and dried fish which might—with more enterprise—be considerably extended. The fisheries for tortoiseshell obtained from the hawksbill turtle (*Chelonia imbricata*) yielded 724 kilos. of shell, valued at Rs. 30,974. Salted fish was exported to the amount of 16,410 kilos. declared at Rs. 2,776. Trepang or bêche de mer was exported to the amount of 2,351 kilos. declared at Rs. 1,000. Samples of chanks and mother-of-pearl shell have been exported for valuation. There are lagoons well suited for shell and sponge culture. Calipee, from the fins of the green turtle, was exported to the weight of 11,218 kilos., declared at Rs. 8,012.

(D.) AGRICULTURE AND CROWN LANDS.

30. An instructive report by Mr. Dupont, Curator of the Botanic Station is annexed, in which are recorded the year's efforts at advancement in agriculture. The receipts from Crown Lands amounted to Rs. 64,791, and the departmental expenditure was Rs. 10,610.

The crop of coconuts for 1907 is estimated by Mr. Dupont at 21½ millions of nuts, as compared with 19 millions in 1906; and the market price rose from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3.50 per 100 nuts. The vanilla crop was 66½ tons, as compared with 20 tons in 1906, the world's output being estimated at 513 tons.

31. Mr. Dupont lays stress on the utilisation of the bark of the cinnamon trees which grow wild throughout Mahé in large quantities and to a considerable size. Cinnamon oil prepared from imported chips is quoted at Rs. 40 per litre on the continent of Europe. The average yield of bark for chips is put at 20 lbs. for an average tree; the oil extracted locally in a newly-established still with a capacity of 4,000 litres gives a return of 0.40 per cent. of the weight of dry bark. A stimulus

has been given to the collection of bark for export; and there is a wide-spread belief that considerable profit may result from this new enterprise. The bark available at once for harvesting as cinnamon chips exceeds 50,000 tons.

Para rubber trees (*Hevea brasiliensis*) have flowered and fruited at the age of four years. Mr. Dupont discusses the relative value in Seychelles of the varieties of rubber-yielding trees and creepers, and gives the results of experiments in tapping the Para trees and the Vahea vines—*Landolphia Madagascariensis*.

32. The exports of the outlying islands are computed to aggregate in value to Rs. 441,881. Two or three years ago the value probably did not exceed Rs. 50,000. A report by Mr. Dupont has been published by the Government, embodying the results of a visit of two months spent in a scientific examination of the Aldabra Group.

(E.) SHIPPING.

33. The tonnage of vessels entering and clearing—exclusive of coastwise trade—is higher than in 1906, and the facilities for sea-borne trade are much improved. The tonnage under the French flag, as represented by the two calls per month of the Messageries steamers, remains constant: British shipping has fallen considerably, and German vessels have taken the place of British. Every opportunity was offered to British lines to call, but in every case the inducements were considered insufficient. The German East African Line (D.O.A.L.), however, considered the prospects sufficiently promising, and have arranged to call at Mahé by time table on their service between Bombay and East Africa, and to detach ships to call at St. Pierre on their way home from South Africa, in order to pick up cargoes of guano. The establishment of a regular line of communication with Bombay is a great relief, on account of the inconvenience which arose through the irregular supply of rice and other food-stuffs.

The following gives the total tonnage entering and clearing during 1906 and 1907, by nationalities:—

Nationality.	1906.		1907.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Great Britain	61	115,702	56	83,123
France	54	114,444	53	115,048
Germany	9	5,289	30	50,076
Norway	7	6,304	8	4,608
United States	2	728	2	2,100
Italy	—	—	2	1,990
Portugal	2	3,600	—	—
	135	246,067	151	256,945

34. Three British men-of-war (tonnage 10,579) visited Mahé during 1907, and three cruisers called, flying respectively the colours of the United States, France, and Germany. The total war tonnage for five years is recorded, showing the marked decrease of visits under the new principle of concentration:—

Year.	Tonnage.
1903	47,423
1904	33,030
1905	28,954
1906	21,454
1907	12,743

35. The mail service is carried out by French steamers of the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, which call once a month homeward bound to Marseilles and outward bound to Madagascar, Réunion, and Mauritius.

Means of Communication among the Islands.

36. The Port Office is an important department in a Colony which consists of 90 islands and groups of islands, several of which are situated over 600 miles from Mahé. The main interest centres in the Seychelles Archipelago, consisting of 45 mountain tops and coral atolls, rising from the Seychelles Bank, an area measuring 150 miles from north to south, and about the same from east to west. In this area the soundings do not exceed 50 fathoms, with an average depth of 1,700 fathoms outside the line of the banks. The islands in this group are served, for administrative purposes, by means of a Government steam launch, the "Alexandra," of 30 tons, built at the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard, and received in December, 1902. The "Alexandra" made in 1907 52 voyages, including a regular fortnightly service to Praslin and La Digue, the islands which, in population and importance, rank next to Mahé. She conveyed 821 passengers and a considerable quantity of cargo. During the height of the south-east trades—June to August—when the sea runs high among the islands, it is thought prudent to limit the regular service to one trip a month, passengers preferring to travel by sailing craft during these months. Her earnings amounted to Rs. 2,882, and her maintenance to Rs. 5,047. Between the months from November to March there are often long periods of calms, during which her steam power renders the launch of great public convenience; but when there is sufficient wind, numerous whale boats and schooners ply between the islands. The Governor made use of the launch on five trips of inspection during the year. The service of the steam launch is supplemented by the use of a Government cutter, the "Wave," of 7½ tons, which is used on a monthly service to the lighthouse on Denis Island, an atoll on the northern edge of the banks, 55 miles from Victoria. The lighthouse service, efficiently maintained, is under the control of the Port Officer. There is in addition a fleet of

smaller boats employed by the Government in local service for the medical officers, the police, the preventive service, and on quarantine duty. The Amirantes Archipelago, situated on a bank to the west and south-west of Mahé, the nearest point being 120 miles off, extends north and south some 260 miles, with a maximum breadth of 59 miles. This archipelago consists of 27 islands or atolls, divided into five groups, known as the African Banks, St. Joseph Group, Poivre Island, Alphonse Group, and Providence Group, the last named being within 170 miles of Cape Amber, the most northern point of Madagascar. This archipelago, as well as the Cosmoledo Islands (12 in number, situated 210 miles west of Providence) and the Aldabra Group (of five more islands, 60 miles still further to the west) are served by sailing craft owned in Seychelles. During 1907 all the groups and islands, except Bird Island, lying to the extreme north and not at present inhabited, were officially inspected by the Visiting Magistrate, under the provisions of the Outlying Islands Ordinance; the important groups were frequently visited. In addition, the Governor visited several islands, and special investigations were carried out by the Curator of the Botanic Station, by the Inspector of Police, the Chief Medical Officer, and the Superintendent of Works.

Most of the outlying islands are highly fertile, and grow coconuts and maize luxuriantly; and on several there are valuable deposits of guano and phosphate of lime.

III.—LEGISLATION.

37. Twelve Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the following are the most important:—

No. 1 provided a new scheme of direct taxation, in substitution for the methods provided by Ordinance No. 16 of 1900, a law which was highly unpopular in the community owing to the inquisitorial character of its provisions, especially in regard to the assessment of income tax. The change of system was based on the unanimous recommendations of a large and influential committee of the various unofficial elements, the only condition imposed being that the aggregate revenue provided should be equal to that (Rs. 54,000) which was normally yielded under the obnoxious law. The new scheme included (1) a land tax of 30 cents. (5*d.*) per acre, (2) a town property tax of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the capital value of immovables, (3) a tenant's tax of 4 per cent. on annual rental value, (4) a capitation tax of Rs. 3 for each male adult between the ages of 18 and 55 years inclusive, (5) a surtax on certain import duties of 5 per cent., and (6) a surtax on licences of 10 per cent. The new

taxes yielded Rs. 58,940, as against Rs. 52,338 in 1906; and imprisonment for default practically ceased.

No. 2.—The Supplementary Supply Bill for 1906, noteworthy as making provisions for the smallest sum (Rs. 7,906) on record.

No. 3 provides for giving pratique to vessels loading and unloading at outlying islands, either before or after call at Port Victoria. The object of the law is to develop the exploitation of guano, phosphates, and mangrove bark, while at the same time safeguarding the existing precautions for preventing the introduction of diseases into the Colony.

No. 7 simplifies the law as to licences (No. 7 of 1903), and abolishes a number of licences on certain petty trades, especially the catching and hawking of fish, the burning and selling of lime, and the sale of estate produce.

No. 10 amends the Civil Status Ordinance, No. 4 of 1893, and enables the Supreme Court to presume the deaths of persons who have disappeared. It remedies the hardships arising from the restrictions in the registration of deaths of those drowned at sea whose bodies have not been recovered.

No. 12 provides for the Estimates of 1908.

38. The collection and revision of the laws of Seychelles has been concluded in 1907. Volume 1 contains Mauritius laws in force in Seychelles; Volume 2 contains Seychelles laws from 1872 to 1898, and Volume 3 from 1899 to 1906. The Ordinances passed each year are now published in the following January.

IV.—EDUCATION.

39. The total number of children receiving instruction in 1907 in schools subject to Government inspection or control was 2,306, representing 10·75 per cent. of the population. Higher education is represented by the Victoria School—a Government institution on an undenominational basis (108 boys); St. Louis College, for boys, conducted by the Marist Brothers (117); and St. Joseph Convent, for girls, under the control of the Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny (107). A Seychelles centre has been established for the Cambridge Local Examinations, on the result of which two scholarships may be awarded yearly of Rs. 600 for four years. An amended Scholarships Ordinance enables the Board of Education to send the holder of a scholarship to a technical college, or to cause him to be apprenticed to any approved occupation, or to allow him to continue his study at the Victoria School, Seychelles, at the Royal College, Mauritius or at any approved

school or college elsewhere in British Possessions. By a new regulation, framed with the view of encouraging the local schools, four exhibitions may be awarded annually at the Victoria School to pupils, under the age of thirteen years, of any primary school in Seychelles. There are fourteen primary schools under the direction of the Roman Catholic Church, and four schools belonging to the Church of England.

The Government grant-in-aid to the denominated schools was fixed at Rs. 10,000.

40. The direction of the educational policy of the Colony is under the Board of Education, consisting of the Governor and his Executive Council, advised by an Education Committee composed of the Chief Justice as Chairman, four members nominated by the Governor (of whom two are officials and two unofficials), two persons nominated by the Roman Catholic Bishop, and one by the Civil Chaplain of the Church of England, with the Inspector of Schools as secretary.

The standard of knowledge acquired by the pupils is not high when measured by what is now expected in most countries. The peasant children and the children of African origin are not naturally bright, and labour under the disadvantage of knowing only a creole patois, which is too restricted and rude to be a medium of learning. As far as possible, English is now the sole medium through which teaching is imparted, but its acquisition is that of a foreign language. The same difficulty would apply in almost as marked a degree to the use of French as a medium. But little assistance is received from home surroundings, as the patois is, in the majority of the houses, the sole language used. There is, however, a growing desire on the part of parents to obtain for their children the advantage of a fair knowledge of English. A popular and useful institution is an exhibition of school work of all kinds, held annually in December.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITAL.

41. The Victoria Hospital is the only general hospital in Seychelles. The excellent system of roads carried out by my predecessor renders it unnecessary to establish a similar institution in South Mahé. A cottage hospital in Praslin, to serve the group of islands administered from that centre, would be a public benefit, and the project will be kept in view until such time as the resources of the Colony are in such an improved condition as to warrant the expenditure.

The Victoria Hospital is supplemented by the establishment of six outdoor dispensaries, namely, one at Victoria, under the direction of the Chief Medical Officer; two, at Anse Royale and Anse Boileau respectively, serving the needs of South Mahé, under the direction of the Assistant Medical Officer for that division; and three under the Assistant Medical Officer for the Praslin District, namely, two on the island of Praslin, at Baie St. Anne and Grand Anse, and one on the adjacent island of La Digue.

42. The statistics of the Victoria Hospital for the last five years are given in the following table:—

Year.	Discharged Cured.	Discharged Relieved.	Discharged Unrelieved.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital.	Total.
1903 ...	172	52	8	28	9	269
1904 ...	210	38	13	20	18	299
1905 ...	241	45	20	14	14	334
1906 ...	192	52	8	22	10	284
1907 ...	219	34	13	14	10	276

The hospital is central and well situated. The wards are airy and well constructed, and the water supply is pure and unlimited. There is a commodious dispensary adjacent, and quarters are provided for the Chief Medical Officer and for the three nursing sisters, who belong to the Roman Catholic Society of St. Joseph de Cluny.

DISPENSARIES.

43. The number of persons who attended for treatment at the outdoor dispensaries was 3,263. As usual the number of females attending the dispensaries (2,471) greatly exceeds the number of men (792). The fullest confidence is felt in the ministrations of five doctors with British qualifications.

PRINCIPAL DISEASES.

44. The death rate per mille in 1907 fell to 14·32, as compared with 17·28 in 1906. The average for the nine years previous was 16·84. Infantile mortality has fallen from an average of 127 per annum for a period of ten years and 147 in 1906, to 101 in 1907, owing to the absence of epidemics. Nine cases of beri-beri have been under treatment, involving three deaths; they were all traceable to the outlying islands; seven of the cases were brought from Marie Louise Island, in the Amirantes Archipelago. The Assistant Medical Officer of South Mahé notes an increase in the number of cases of tuberculosis in his district. Influenza—or perhaps it may be dengue fever—has been prevalent, but no deaths are attributable to this malady.

The supply of vaccine received from Europe by the monthly mails is of good quality and gives excellent results, the successful cases being over 99 per cent. Vaccination of infants is obligatory.

LEPER ASYLUM.

45. There are ten lepers in the home at Round Island. The Medical Officer in charge is of opinion that leprosy is not on the increase, but his experience goes to show that there are families in which there is susceptibility towards this malady. The home on Round Island, in the Baie St. Anne, within ready access from the house of the Assistant Medical Officer of Praslin, is well adapted for the treatment of cases.

PAUPER CAMP.

46. The number of paupers maintained by the Government at the close of the year was thirteen. These patients represent the old and destitute, principally liberated slaves. The camp is roomy, healthily placed, and well kept.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

47. Insane persons were sent until 1906 to the Government Asylum of Mauritius, where six cases are still under treatment. The disadvantages of long transfer by sea in sailing vessels—for the regular mail steamers refuse insane patients—are obvious, and the distance causes difficulties attending discharge of patients on probation. Moreover, the charge for maintenance is high, the cost of transport is usually expensive, and months have at times passed before an opportunity has occurred for the transfer of a patient to Mauritius. It has now been resolved to establish an asylum at Anse Royale under the care of the Assistant Medical Officer of South Mahé, who has made a special study of mental diseases. An Ordinance has been passed (No. 3 of 1906) for the care and treatment of lunatics; temporary quarters are still in occupation, but the permanent asylum buildings will be completed in 1908.

SAVINGS BANK.

48. The following table gives the saving bank statistics for the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Accounts on 31st December.	Number of Accounts Opened during the Year.	Number of Accounts Closed during the Year.	Amount of Deposits on 31st December.
				Rs. Cts.
1903 ...	291	35	23	58,067-07
1904 ...	302	34	23	58,462-53
1905 ...	307	39	34	67,852-10
1906 ...	315	23	15	131,546-43
1907 ...	356	49	8	158,283-03

The large increase in deposits is due to the prosperity of 1907, and the accumulation of savings awaiting investment in land or mortgage.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

LAW COURTS.

49. The following table shows the volume of judicial work transacted in the five years, 1903-7:—

Year.	Criminal Informations.	Cases adjudicated.	No. of persons charged.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of Civil Cases.	No. of Stipendiary Cases.	No. of Cases in Chambers.
1903 ...	1,108	1,099	1,293	1,071	271	94	64
1904 ...	1,083	1,077	1,278	808	232	24	80
1905 ...	1,032	1,024	1,487	1,262	181*	16	80
1906 ...	1,195	1,190	1,558	1,419	203†	17	58
1907 ...	1,262	1,247	1,397	1,239	179‡	29	60

* In addition to 514 cases referred to Court for non-payment of local rate.

† In addition to 203 cases referred to Court for non-payment of local rate.

‡ In addition to 92 cases referred to Court for non-payment of local rate

50. The number of cases of crime and misdemeanour dealt with in the Supreme Court of Seychelles was 369; 389 persons were charged, 342 convicted, 45 acquitted, and two were awaiting trial at the end of the year. The bulk of the convictions (including 180 for contraventions under specific Ordinances—especially the Licensing Law—and 76 for petty larcenies), were for offences of a trifling character. There was a marked absence of serious crime.

The number of cases dealt with in the Police Court was 515; 615 persons were charged and 571 convicted, mostly for drunkenness or disturbance. The Justice of the Peace for South Mahé had before him 208 accused persons, of whom 169 were convicted. The Justice of the Peace for Praslin and La Digue tried 185 persons, and convicted 154. The Visiting Magistrates for the outlying islands dealt with three cases, all of which resulted in convictions; but the offences were of a trifling character. The population as a whole is singularly law-abiding, and there is a marked absence of the litigious element which bulks so largely in the statistics of India and

the Dependencies of the Further East. The illicit preparation of "bacca," the fermented juice of the sugar cane, is still prevalent, and the custom of having a "festin" in order to clear an extent of land for cultivation, to which all the labourers in the neighbourhood are invited and rewarded by a free distribution of fermented "bacca," leads to drunkenness and disorder.

POLICE FORCE.

51. The authorised strength of the police force remained throughout the year at 59, of all ranks. In addition, one corporal and eight constables were in charge of the political prisoners, their services being paid for by the Governments of the Gold Coast and of the Uganda Protectorate. The cost of the regular police has been gradually reduced from Rs. 40,557 in 1903 to Rs. 33,902 in 1907. The police prosecuted in 1,006 cases, involving 1,223 persons, of whom 1,119 were convicted. The following table shows the comparative results for five years:—

Year.	No of cases.	Persons charged.	Persons convicted.	Declared value of property lost.	Value of property recovered.	Fines inflicted.
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1903 ...	869	1,079	987	2,906	2,091	9,303
1904 ...	797	961	836	4,385	503	8,025
1905 ...	1,023	1,295	1,163	1,191	969	9,858
1906 ...	1,072	1,373	1,275	1,294	699	8,880
1907 ...	1,007	1,223	1,119	1,999	933	12,806

52. Seven cases of burglary were reported to the police, and convictions followed in all cases. The prevalence of praedial theft has been checked, the number of unemployed labourers having decreased owing to the demand for men on the outlying islands. The police force has greatly improved in efficiency and *morale* during the past two years. The fines included one of Rs. 3,000 for possession of an illicit still.

PRISON.

53. The number of persons committed to prison during 1907 amounted to 390 men and 61 women, a decrease of 240 as compared with the figures for 1906; but of this total 297 were under remand for safe custody or were sentenced to simple imprisonment in default of payment of fines imposed by the Courts. The number actually sentenced to undergo penal imprisonment was 153, viz., 132 men and 21 women, a total of less than half of the convictions in 1906. The daily average of prisoners was 48, of whom four were women. Eighteen persons, all males, were admitted to the prison infirmary;

there were two deaths. There were no cases of corporal punishment.

The printing department is now carried on within the precincts of the prison, with a marked improvement in the quantity and quality of the work turned out and an economy of 35 per cent. in the expenditure.

The prison is now on a level with modern requirements. The cost of the Prison Department in 1907 was Rs. 9,482. The cost in 1906 was Rs. 12,110, and in 1905 Rs. 15,018. The subjoined table shows the statistics for the past five years:—

Year.	Number committed to prison.	Daily average of male and female prisoners in the prison.
1903... ..	450	45
1904... ..	467	50
1905... ..	660	75
1906... ..	691	70
1907... ..	451	48

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

54. The population on the 31st December, 1907, was estimated at 21,502, viz., 11,009 males and 10,493 females. The births numbered 688—31·99 per mille—and the deaths 308—14·32 per mille.

The number of still-births was 50. The proportion of illegitimate births is 30 per cent. There were 132 marriages. The density of the population is 13·83 per square mile.

CLIMATE.

55. The following table gives the rainfall and the maximum and minimum shade temperature in Victoria for the last five years:—

Year.	Rainfall in inches.	Maximum Shade Temperature.	Minimum Shade Temperature.	Number of Wet Days.
		°F.	°F.	
1903... ..	132·96	88·5	68·0	171
1904... ..	106·74	87·2	68·2	160
1905... ..	88·91	88·0	71·0	147
1906... ..	96·12	88·7	70·6	194
1907... ..	82·43	87·5	70·1	171

The average daily maximum was 82.3° , and the minimum 76.6° . The mean temperature was 79.45° , slightly higher than the average of the nine years previous, viz., 79.04° .

The average rainfall for the last fifteen years has been 100.8 inches; the fall in 1907 was below the average, but it was evenly and satisfactorily distributed throughout the year, and there was no recurrence of a period of drought such as wrought such havoc in the plantations in 1904 and 1905. On the 20th of February 6.43 inches of rain fell in two hours.

The winds were very light during the first five months of the year, and the south-east trades were not thoroughly established until June, dying away in the middle of November. The force of wind occasionally rose to 20 miles per hour.

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

56. The volume of correspondence, which was checked in 1904 by the suspension of the mail service due to strikes at the port of Marseilles, has not maintained the marked advance made in 1905. The only noticeable increase occurs in the despatch of pictorial post cards. Local postal matter shows a considerable increase.

57. The mail service is performed by the *Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes*. There is no formal contract, but steamers leaving Marseilles on the 25th of each month call at Mahé on the outward voyage to Madagascar, Réunion, and Mauritius about the 10th of each month. Return steamers call about the 8th of each month, arriving in Marseilles about the 25th. This arrangement of dates precludes the sending of a reply to a letter for nearly a month after its receipt, either in Seychelles or in the United Kingdom. For this service the company receives a subsidy of 2,000 francs for each call, and it is entitled to exemption from all harbour dues and from local rates. The cost of conveyance of mails beyond the Colony in 1907 was Rs. 30,026. Since December, 1906, the General Post Office has made up a mail to leave Marseilles on the 10th of each month by *Messageries Maritimes* steamers on that branch of their Indian Ocean route which calls at Zanzibar and Diego Suarez, and from the latter port the bags are transferred to the homeward-bound mail steamer. The passage of mails by this route occupies 30 days from London, as compared with 17 days by the direct route.

His Majesty's ships of war are always prepared to carry mails; and opportunities occur each month for the despatch of the supplementary mails by steamers calling at the port of Victoria.

58. There is no inland service of telegraph, but a cable station is established at Mahé by the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company, on the line to Australia. This Government pays to the company an annual subsidy of Rs. 15,000 (£1,000) towards the maintenance of a cable between Zanzibar and Mauritius, under an agreement to be in force for twenty years and expiring in 1913, entered into between the Imperial Government and the company, the total subsidy amounting to £28,000 per annum.

59. The following table shows the business transacted in post office money orders:—

Money Orders (including British Postal Orders).

Year	...	...	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
External—			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Money Orders issued	...		60,412	53,323	75,229	55,419	73,061
Money Orders paid	...		16,596	10,097	10,144	14,368	12,436
Totals	...	...	77,008	63,420	85,373	69,787	85,497
Internal—							
Money Orders issued and paid.			3,889	6,426	7,370	5,813	4,538

Of the remittances through the Post Office, 61 per cent. goes to India, and 16 per cent. to the United Kingdom. The remittances through the Post Office to India represent for the most part savings of Indian settlers.

60. Departmental receipts vary very greatly according to the orders of stamp dealers. Purchases by dealers fell from Rs. 10,166 in 1906 to Rs. 2,240 in 1907; but the legitimate revenue from stamps rose from Rs. 11,867 to Rs. 14,966.

			1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Local receipts	...	...	35,183	12,743	17,265	22,033	17,206
Local expenditure	...	...	14,064	10,095	8,619	10,384	9,853

IX.—GENERAL.

61. The year under review was exceptionally prosperous, owing to the large crops of coconuts and vanilla and the high prices obtained for both these staple products. Such exceptional good fortune is not likely to occur again, but there are abundant signs of a high level of prosperity for some years to come. The proprietors have shaken off part of their heavy load of debt, and take a more energetic interest in the cultivation of their lands.

Apart from the cultivation of the coconut, which is the backbone of the Colony, and of vanilla, which provides pocket money, the best of the farmers have plantations of rubber, ylang ylang—among new products—as well as coffee and cacao. Sugar must also be cultivated to supply the new rum distillery, and attempts are being made to utilise the bark on the cinnamon trees. Furthermore, the exploitation of the outlying islands has progressed most hopefully, for, apart from guano, the plantations of coconut are being extended, and the harvesting of mangrove bark is taken seriously in hand.

62. Mr. A. Carnegie, the philanthropist, has presented a sum of £1,750 for the establishment of a free public library at Victoria.

W. E. DAVIDSON,

4th May, 1908.

Governor.

ANNEXURE.

REPORT BY THE CURATOR OF THE BOTANIC STATION
FOR THE YEAR 1907.

GENERAL REMARKS.

1. The exports during 1907 have reached the record figure of 2½ millions rupees.

This is three times as much as the value of the exports for 1906, and nearly double that of any one year since 1901. This result is due both to a large crop in coconuts and vanilla, and to the higher prices at which these articles have been sold. The crop of coconuts is more than two millions of nuts in excess of that for 1906, 1905, or 1904.

The crop of vanilla is the highest on record since 1901. The climatic conditions were favourable to each of these crops, to which more attention is also devoted.

2. The exportation of guano is increasing considerably, and exceeds the exportation for 1906 by Rs. 231,651. It is anticipated that the profit from this mineral wealth of the Colony will go far to improve the situation of all classes of the community, and permit the extension of new industries.

3. The labourers when employed on the guano islands earn much higher wages than formerly when they were working on the share system of vanilla plantations. Many of them are strong enough to give two and three times their task in one day and thus save in a short time a small capital.

It is questionable whether the labourers of the Colony are numerous enough to allow the extraction of guano to exceed the figure realised last year (14,500 tons).

For the same reason labour difficulties will have to be faced when the new industries that are being started will have been extended.

Fortunately a large class of labourers dread living in the outlying islands and prefer leading a less profitable life in Mahé. Up to now no difficulty of this kind has been experienced in the preparation of essential oils, in the extraction of mangrove bark, and in rubber planting. Female and children labour is more extensively required for the other new industries that have been recommended, viz., preparation of citrate of lime, cardamom planting, onion cultivation, and sisal fibre manufacture. The last mentioned industry is worth being experimented with in some of the very numerous and large coral islands of the archipelago. Unfortunately there is some difficulty in getting boys and girls working on the estates, owing to all their time being devoted to school work. It would perhaps be more profitable to the Colony to combine school work and field work for the youngsters at least in the neighbourhood of the larger estates of Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue; otherwise the question of getting new immigrants from India will have to be seriously considered in the near future.

EXPENDITURE, RECEIPTS, SALE OF PLANTS, &c.

4. The total expenditure for the year for the Botanic Station and Crown lands was Rs. 10,610.

The rents of Crown lands exclusive of buildings realised Rs. 16,771.

The produce from Crown lands exclusive of guano amounted to Rs. 9,311.

The sale of guano produced Rs. 37,381.

The receipts from sale of plants, Rs. 1,328.

CONDITION OF GARDEN ; STRIKING SPECIES INTRODUCED, PLANTED OUT,
FLOWERED, AND FRUITED.

5. Amongst the introduced plants that flowered and fruited for the first time may be mentioned :—1. *Parkia Roxburghii* (shade tree) ; 2. *Brucea Sumatrana* (medicinal plant) ; 3. *Cosuarina Sumatrana* (ornamental tree) ; 4. *Hevea Brasiliensis* (Para rubber plant) ; 5. *Arundo donax* (ornamental bamboo-like weed) ; 6. *Combretum Coccineum* (ornamental creeper) ; 7. *Cassia Javanica* (ornamental tree, pink flowers) ; 8. *Plumeria rubra* (red frangipane) ; 9. *Cassia marginata* (yellow flowers) ; 10. *Garcinia Alangostana* (mangosteen).

In the opinion of many, *Cassia Javanica* flowers so freely that it is considered to be more decorative than the flamboyant *Poinciana regia*.

The mangosteen tree in question fruited abundantly at Bel Ombre, producing fruits quite as large and as good as in its native land. It is a tree which was introduced in Seychelles by the Sultan of Perak when he was a political prisoner in 1879. There are two other trees of the same age, which I have come across, one at Government House in unsuitable ground, and the other at Union Vale estate. Four younger trees (three years) are growing at the Botanic Station and at Capucin. Every effort should be made to propagate the plants issued from the new seeds, very few countries being suitable to their growth, and this fruit being rightly considered as one of the best in the world.

It is an improved fruit obtained at a very remote date by the native East Indian gardeners.

6. METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Month.	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Rain-fall.	No. of Rainy Days.
January	82.2	76.9	87.1	73.6	21.55	21
February	82.7	76.0	87.3	73.9	20.3	13
March	82.2	76.1	90.1	74.2	3.64	8
April	80.1	74.2	89.1	72.2	6.80	13
May... ..	82.0	77.0	89.1	75.0	9.47	13
June	79.2	75.1	85.0	74.2	0.75	4
July	70.0	75.0	82.0	74.0	4.12	21
August	77.2	72.6	80.3	72.1	1.34	17
September	80.0	73.2	83.1	73.0	5.58	8
October	80.0	75.3	86.2	75.0	3.35	12
November	81.9	76.6	88.0	73.1	3.25	10
December	80.9	75.2	80.0	73.0	18.12	21
	80.6	75.2	85.6	73.6	98.30	166

LABORATORY.

7. The following analyses were undertaken for the public during 1907 :—

	Sample.
Toddy (fermented coconut flower juice) ...	1
Bacca (fermented cane juice)	5
Rhum (tampered with)	2
Guano	9
Coral	1
Soil	2
Contents of the stomach of a corpse ...	1

The soil analyses from a coconut estate have given the following results:—

				Coarse soil.	Black fine soil.
				1	2
Phosphoric acid	...	...	...	9.60	2.78
Sulphuric acid	...	...	...	0.02	0.07
Potash	...	...	...	0.23	0.02
Lime	...	...	...	0.00	0.12
Oxide of iron and alumina	...	...	...	14.30	5.40
Silicates, &c.	...	...	...	75.85	91.61
				100.00	100.00
Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.08	0.36

These soils are both very rich in phosphates, one is deficient in potash, the other in nitrogen, and the two are very poor in lime. Heavy doses of lime and coral sand, which always contain a little nitrogen and a little potash, have been recommended.

THE COCONUT INDUSTRIES.

8. The exports of coconut products amounted in 1907 to a declared value of Rs. 771,363, and the production of the plantations for the same period may be divided as follows:—

	1905.	1906.	1907.
Nuts exported in nature ...	551,135	381,954	601,560
Nuts converted into oil ...	9,915,400	7,762,080	1,786,160
" " " copra ...	2,077,019	5,655,860	13,653,682
" " " soap ...	2,451,039	1,243,571	1,672,006
" consumed locally ...	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
	18,994,653	19,043,465	21,716,408

The manufacture of copra is steadily increasing, to the great benefit of the planters, who sold their nuts last year at an average price of Rs. 3.50. Less than two years ago the price per 100 nuts was below Rs. 2, and went down as low as R. 1.25 in 1905. There are many local firms who have entered into competition for the manufacture of copra, and the industry is now carried on in such way as to ensure the market for nuts being regulated by the price of copra in Marseilles instead of being dependent, as formerly, on the value of the oil in Mauritius, which is in the hands of two firms only. There is more stability in the price paid for nuts, and the value of coconut estates has more than doubled since last year.

9. Unfortunately very little attention is paid to the manuring of the worn-out plantations, the work of only eradicating the disease absorbing as a rule the attention of planters. One planter (Mr. Bergne), however, started experiments in 1906, in simply using 25 kilos. of stable manure and a mixture of 3 kilos. of guano, kainite, salt, and lime per tree, and the results he has obtained warrant the very wise measure of manuring coconut estates on a large scale. Twelve months after manuring, i.e., on the 1st December, 1906, the trees produced a larger crop, and the crop from that time was raised from an average of 31 nuts to an average of 61 nuts one year after (December, 1907).

On a much worn-out coconut estate, a few experiments which I had started in 1906 were, after six months, repeated by the owner on many other parts of the estate. In these experiments, kainite (two cwt.) was used as a source of potash, guano (four cwt.) as a source of phosphoric acid, and velvet beans as a source of nitrogen.

The velvet beans grow very well in the coral ground and possess the advantage of being an annual, thus doing very little damage when allowed to climb over the coconut trees when they have not been dug in due time.

There are few industries in the tropics which give a better result than coconut planting, and for this reason I think that in well established plantations, when the soil is not very poor, heavy manuring with double the quantity above referred to should be experimented with.

On the other hand in localities where the soil is stiff and washed out, I do not think it would pay to manure even very heavily.

THE VANILLA INDUSTRY.

10. The crop of the year under review was above the average and reached 66½ tons. It is the largest crop on record since 1904 and largely compensated for last year's crop, which amounted to 20 tons only. The average price realised may be put down as having been Rs. 7 per lb. but, at the beginning of the crop much higher prices were anticipated, and many merchants who were under that impression paid as much as Rs. 4 and 5 per 100 green pods and did not make a good bargain. The prices obtained on the London market were lower than those realised locally at the hands of the agents of French firms, especially regarding good sized beans, which as a rule realised about 50 per cent. more on the French than on the English market.

Short vanilla on the other hand fetched a much higher price on the London market, where there seems to exist a very small difference in value between short and long beans, whilst good long beans on the Continent are occasionally worth 3 or 4 times the small and inferior beans. A little less than half the crop was sold in London and the rest in France, Germany, and Switzerland, the French market absorbing as much as the English market.

11. The high prices realised in 1907 gave an impetus to vanilla planting and many old plantations which had been neglected for the last two years have been put in order. With such a capricious plant as vanilla, which is more dependent on climatic conditions than on cultural treatment, and with the market prices which fluctuate so widely, the efforts made by planters in a given year, when the prices are high, are not always compensated for in the following years when the market may be depressed. According to the well-known French expert, Mr. Maurice Simon, the crops for Mexico, Madagascar, and the Comoros are increasing enormously every year and glutting the market. In 1901, Mr. Simon estimated at 263 tons the world's production, with 30 tons for Mexico and nothing for Madagascar and the Comoros. In 1907-08 the figures given are 513 tons for the total production; the crops for Mexico, Madagascar and Comoros being 395 tons or 77 per cent. of the world's production.

These figures show that the output from these countries determines the market prices, and that countries like Seychelles only periodically benefit by high prices, that is, when any part of Madagascar, the Comoros, and Bourbon crops have been destroyed by hurricanes. For this reason it seems that the efforts made by some planters at intervals are unsafe and made in vain. As plantations that are overgrown with weeds and bushes and which are not properly propped and pruned fail to flower normally, weather permitting, and as the majority of flowers appear on that part of the vines which is two years old, it seems safer not to allow plantations to become neglected and to stick to a more limited number of vines properly cultivated throughout the good and bad periods of time without distinction. In other words it seems wise to limit the vanilla plantations in Seychelles to those parts of the mountain districts which are unsuitable to the safer planting of coconuts and rubber. The policy of having mixed plantations of vanilla and coconuts which may have been useful when the price of vanilla was as high as Rs. 25 per pound and that for coconuts as low as Rs. 1.25 per 100 nuts, should no longer be adopted. It was detrimental both to the vanilla and to the coconut trees, but principally to the latter, because the plants used as props for vanilla became tall trees in a short time and outgrew the palms, after having brought in insect diseases of all sorts which destroyed many a coconut grove in Seychelles.

The crop for 1908 is very poor, the weather having been much too dry from February to September to develop a normal flowering and also to allow the vines that had flowered abundantly the year before to produce a new crop. A few flowers appeared in September and October, and until February, 1908, the vines were seen flowering very irregularly and at intervals. If the flowers that appeared in September and October have not been disturbed by showers, those which were pollinated in November and December, January, and February will produce pods that are liable to damp off as usual owing to the rains which commenced in December.

12. The irregularity in the flowering has this year caused a delay in obtaining the results from the experimental fields, which have been extended in October last, and which now consist of the following basins :

No. 1. Kainit and nitrogen.	}	Planted October, 1905.
No. 2. Coral and guano.		
No. 3. Coral.		
No. 4. Kainit, coral, and guano.		
No. 5. Kainit.		
No. 6. Coral and nitrogen.		
No. 7. Kainit, coral, and guano.		
No. 8. Kainit, coral, guano, and nitrogen.		
No. 9. Kainit, coral, guano, and nitrogen		
No. 10. Kainit, coral, and guano.		
No. 11. Kainit and guano.		
No. 12. Nitrogen.		
No. 13. Guano and nitrogen.	}	Planted August, 1907.
No. 14. Guano and kainit.		
No. 15. Guano.		
No. 16. No manure.		
No. 17. No manure.		
No. 18. Guano.		
No. 19. Guano and kainit.		
No. 20. Coral, guano, kainit, and nitrogen.		
No. 21. Coral, guano, kainit, and nitrogen.		
No. 22. Coral, guano, and nitrogen.		
No. 23. Guano, kainit, nitrogen, and coral.		
No. 24. Guano, kainit, nitrogen, and coral.		
No. 25. Guano, kainit, and nitrogen.		
No. 26. Guano, kainit, nitrogen, coral, and manganese.		
No. 27. Guano, kainit, nitrogen, coral, and 2 manganese.		
No. 28. Guano, kainit, nitrogen, and coral.		
No. 29. Guano, coral, guano, leaf mould.		
No. 30. Guano, coral, guano, and 2 leaf moulds.		
No. 31. Leaf mould alone.		
No. 32. Leaf mould and ammonium nitrate.		
No. 33. Kainit, coral, nitrogen, and guano.		
No. 34. Kainit, coral, nitrogen, and 2 guano.		
No. 35. Kainit, coral and nitrogen.		
No. 36. Coral, guano, kainit, and ammonium nitrate.		
No. 37. No manure.		

Basins Nos. 36 and 37 are divided into two parts, one of which is under shade, and the other fully exposed to the sun during five hours of the day.

The question of shade was also studied, and as far as results have been obtained, the following figures may serve to point out the importance of the question in vanilla planting. The plants put in the open on tripods or bars in the neighbourhood of tall trees, and with a tuft of grass put as usual on the bent portions of the vines to prevent those parts from being burnt by the sun, have produced in five months 188 grammes weight of shoots per vine.

The vines put in the same position, but with a supplementary shade made of one row of *Nephrosperma* (palm) leaves laid at a foot above the bars, have

produced 502 grammes weight of shoots during the same time. It may be gathered from the experiments, which will be continued, that on the hill districts like "Capucin" the question of shade is too much neglected in most plantations. On the other hand, the absence of established diseases in Seychelles makes it questionable whether it would not be better to cultivate vanilla in small, compact and suitable patches, both regarding shade and soil, than to cultivate this orchid, as it is done at present, on distant trees, which make it difficult to regulate in the same way the conditions of growth.

The experiments will serve to solve the question, and also to settle the point as to whether the manuring of the vines will not make good the irregularity of flowering that occurs in too wet or too dry years. The results obtained so far show that mineral solutions (1 in 10,000) do not injure the vines, but it is too early as yet to anticipate the action on the crop, two years only having elapsed since the first flowering of the vines took place. It was foreseen that mineral solutions would not be injurious, the orchid being grown already very near the sea, where salt water is sprayed very often. At Anse Vanlbert in Praslin one can notice excellent vanilla growing and fruiting under the scævola (Veloutier) bushes that grow on the beach near the high-water mark.

THE ESSENTIAL OILS INDUSTRY.

13. The manufacture of essential oils has emerged from the experimental stage, and a modern factory provided with a boiler and a still of 4,000 litres capacity has been put up at Sans Souci. Last year the experiments were conducted in a still of one-fourth that size and water distillation was used. As was anticipated a much finer oil has been obtained this year, and a comparison of the results has shown at the same time that the yield is about one-third higher when steam distillation is used. It seems that when the raw material, leaves or bark, is distilled in presence of water, many mucilaginous and resinous substances are liberated from the vegetable matters by maceration and partly distilled over with the essential oil.

Owing to lower prices for citronella and lemon grass oils (which compare favourably with oils from India and Ceylon), including a drop of 4d. per ounce for lemon grass oil, which is about five times more valuable than citronella oil, it was decided this year to make use of cinnamon bushes instead of the above grasses.

14. The Cinnamon, which is the Ceylon species (*Cinnamon Zeylanicum*), gives three different kinds of oil of totally different composition, but after valuation of samples obtained from leaves and also from bark it was decided to start the industry with bark distillation, the oil obtained being five times more valuable. Samples of oil from roots have not yet been prepared, the trees being cut down, but not uprooted, in order to obtain succeeding crops from offshoots from the stumps. As the oil obtained from bark is the most valuable of the three, it is frequently adulterated in certain countries with oil distilled from leaves or from roots.

It is to be hoped that by sticking to pure and genuine oils from bark in Seychelles the product will fetch a good price, approaching that of the oil distilled in Europe from imported chips. This latter oil is worth about Rs. 40 a litre, and samples from Seychelles, obtained by water distillation last year, have fetched as much as Rs. 30 on the Continent. Samples forwarded at the same time to the Imperial Institute were not very favourably reported upon, a lower price having been obtained from a few English firms. It is therefore probable that a certain fluctuation in the price is bound to happen for the Seychelles oil, but at the same time it is hoped that with the improvements in the product obtained from the new factory the industry will be established on a firm footing.

The chips obtained in Seychelles differ very little from those produced in Ceylon. In one case, *i.e.*, in Ceylon, the cinnamon bushes are cultivated and the sticks cut every year to produce quills. These sticks, which are about the size of the thumb, are used when they are straight, but all shoots

of one year or over which have become coarse are considered unfit for quills and turned into chips. These Ceylon chips produce the fine oil worth Rs. 40.

15. In Seychelles, the cinnamon bushes, which have been propagated by birds, especially the pied mynah, for about a century, are found in Mahé from the top of the highest mountains to the sea shore. This plant being very hardy and quite at home in the coarse, gravelly, and lateritic soils of Seychelles, reaches enormous dimensions in many places, especially alongside the rivers and streams, where it out-grows most of the other indigenous plants. The bark, which is at present used in the factory, is derived from those tall trees, some of which are about one foot in diameter and produce as much as 100 lbs. of dry bark. Many cinnamon bushes of more stunted growth, which are used as props for vanilla vines in exposed situations, are not at present utilised, but as vanilla cultivation is gradually abandoned in unsuitable and worn-out spots, the bark from these younger cinnamon bushes will be turned into chips and thus form a material more closely resembling Ceylon chips. There is also a special mode of drying quills and chips in Ceylon besides their being in most cases deprived of the epidermis by scraping before they are cured. They are more carefully handled when dried, first in the shade for two days after one night's fermentation under wet gunny bags and then for two days in the morning sun to complete the curing process. At present in Seychelles the chips are obtained by peeling the rough bark of the tall trees; no scraping is done, and the drying is generally carried out in the sun for three or four days to save time and trouble. In one experiment at Sans Souci the difference in the yield of scraped chips as compared with those of unscraped bark was very slight and scraping was abandoned. Experiments were also carried out with fresh bark and with dried and half dried bark, and the dried bark produced twice as much oil as the fresh bark, the loss in drying the bark keeping the same proportional difference. Oil from dried bark is better flavoured and less pungent to the taste than oil from fresh bark, and the yield was in January, 1908, respectively 9.40 and 9.20 per cent. of the raw material.

The question of yield has something to do probably with the exposure of the bushes and the season during which they are cut. In January the bushes were all ripening their fruits, and we may consider that period of their growth as being that of the least vegetable activity. In March or April they produce a flush of new leaves, and as the essential oils are formed in greater quantity during this period of their growth, it is probable that the yield will increase from May to September. Sometimes a second flush is produced in October, immediately before the flowering, but at that time the bushes regain considerable vegetable activity under the influence of rain, and the yield will probably again be maintained at a maximum until the end of the year. These periods of vegetable activity are well known in Ceylon and the preparation of quills is only started there three weeks after the advent of the wet season, when the rains have brought a flush of new leaves in May or November at the turn of each monsoon.

The stems, as already stated, produce as much as 100 lbs. of dry bark when the trees are very tall, but the average tree will not produce more than 20 lbs. of dry bark without counting the small branches and twigs, which contain the essential oil in just the same proportion. At present only the wild cinnamon are utilised, but if the industry allows of a margin of profit in future, there is no reason why the natural dispersion of the seeds should not be increased or supplemented by broadcasting them in those regions which have become unsuited to more profitable cultivation. In the present conditions there is enough bark for a single factory to work for some time, and when the trees are cut down the new shoots after a year or two could in their turn be utilised and afford enough material to keep the sole factory going on indefinitely. If other factories are started then cinnamon planting should be developed.

16. Samples of oil from clove leaves were also submitted to the Institute for valuation; but the price offered for oil from cinnamon bark is much

higher (four times) and it is very likely that the number of clove trees grown in this Colony is not sufficient to permit an industry being started on a firm footing unless more trees are planted in the near future.

Clove trees grow well in Seychelles, especially in red laterite soils, when the other trees do not do as well. When the cinnamon leaves will be utilised for oil extraction the clove leaves from trees already existing might also be made use of and distilled at the same time or on alternate days, the oil from either leaf being of very similar composition and possessing so much the same odour as to make it difficult to distinguish between them.

The cinnamon and clove trees which have reached a large size and which begin to die off in some places should be exploited without delay because there are few places in the world where these trees are allowed to grow wild. It would very likely pay to export their bark and their leaves if there is any difficulty in erecting the necessary stills for the preparation of the essential oils.

THE RUBBER ENTERPRISE.

17. I have to record this year two more points in favour of this industry. The first Hevea trees planted at Côtés d'Or Estate, Praslin, and at the Botanic Station and aged 5 years and 4 years 8 months respectively in December, 1907, have flowered and fruited for the first time. The flowers appeared in September and the fruits ripened in January. A second flowering is said to be taking place at present (March) on two trees at Côtés d'Or which are planted in deep alluvial soil; and 14 fruits only have ripened at Côtés d'Or as yet, 8 at the Botanic Station, and the total number of trees that have fruited are 6 and 3 respectively. I consider this successful fruiting of the Para rubber tree within five years as an indication of the suitability of the soil and climate of Seychelles to this plant, which does not flower at an earlier age in Ceylon and in the Amazon Valley. Only those plants that have been looked after have flowered, whilst many plants (over 1,000) of the same age which are growing on other estates might also come into bearing in the near future. The consequence of this flowering cannot be too much emphasized as it prepares the way for the rational rubber planting in Seychelles. I do not think that the ordinary planter will care to plant rubber unless seeds are obtained locally. The planters that have introduced seeds from Ceylon this year have very dearly paid for their praiseworthy initiative. Out of 200,000 seeds received during the season, only a couple of hundreds of plants have been raised. This is sufficient argument against the industry being taken up by small cultivators at present. The seeds obtained at the Botanic Station weighed 4 grammes each and were of very good size. They have the same weight in Ceylon.

The second point in favour of the Para rubber industry which is worth being recorded is the successful tapping of the larger trees. A group of 6 trees aged 5 years and measuring 18 inches at 3 feet from the ground have given the following results (these trees measured 14 inches last year): 28 days' tapping produced 1,334 c.c. latex, out of which 447 grammes of dry rubber were obtained or 33 per cent. of the latex. The quantity of latex per diem varied from 4 c.c. to 12 c.c. per tree, but the wound response was not evident in tapping these young trees. No trees of the same age in Ceylon and Perak are reported to have yielded a greater quantity of latex. The tapping was made at the base of the stems up to 3 feet high and with Northway Bowman's knives. No difficulty was experienced by tapping with these knives, which are easily managed by an ordinary Seychelles boy after a few minutes' practice. The double spiral was used after a trial of the herring-bone and gamma systems, which do not allow the latex to flow so easily.

The yield of the young trees is satisfactory, the wounds after 28 days' tapping being less than 2 inches wide, and healing after a month's time. There is no doubt that trees of this age would produce an average of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per annum in tapping during 100 days only.

It is to be noted that all these trees that have reached at present a tappable size are derived from seeds collected by myself at Heneratgodda and Penang on trees that were known to yield very good rubber in good quantity.

A kind of preliminary selection was made, and it is hoped that in future much care will be given to that question of selection, which should be a prominent question amongst planters. All trees that will not produce rubber in good quantity after two years' tapping should be destroyed, on account of the crossing that will likely interfere with the selection, the rubber plants being monoecious.

Several biscuits have been prepared and look very elastic. They will be sent home for valuation and analysis together with samples from *Landolphia* vines, *Ficus Elastica*, and *Manihot Glaziovii*.

18. No effort has, as yet, been made to propagate the two last mentioned rubber trees, which are not so suitable to the Colony as the Para rubber. *Ficus Elastica* grows much more slowly and will only grow in rich alluvial soil, whilst *Manihot Glaziovii* on the other hand yields about $\frac{1}{10}$ th of the quantity of latex. The two other rubber trees which are growing at the Botanic Station, viz., *Funtumia Elastica*, and *Castilloa Elastica* have not yet reached the tapping size, being about 6 to 10 inches circumference at 3 feet from the ground after four years' growth. This is insufficient growth as compared with *Hevea Brasiliensis*, of which the largest measure 20 inches in the same soil. Further, both *Castilloa* and *Funtumia* suffer much more than *Hevea* from insect and fungus pests and are consequently not so hardy; *Funtumia Elastica* is, however, more promising than *Castilloa*.

19. Amongst other rubber plants of less importance it has been decided to propagate two rubber creepers from Madagascar, *Cryptostegia Madagascariensis* and *Landolphia Madagascariensis*, which produce respectively the Lombiro and Pinki rose rubber of commerce. Seeds of Lombiro rubber were obtained from Mauritius, and seeds of *Landolphia* from Union Vale Estate, where a few plants introduced in 1902 have fruited this year. As many as 5,000 plants of the latter variety were distributed during the year, and planted out in the upper parts of Val Riche Estate. These plants are doing well on the sea shore in places where they are shaded and have a loose soil; a dense shade of Bois Noir (*Albizia Lebbek*) and Jak trees (*Artocarpus integrifolia*) is very suitable, while in light shade and stiff soil it makes very slow growth. Above 500 feet the question of shade is of less importance, and provided the soil is loose, the young seedling will stand successfully full exposure to the sun, and would even grow on rocks. There is a lack of uniformity in the flowers and leaves of the *Landolphia* creepers from Madagascar, where some of them are said not to flower very often and even not at all. It is worth while recording that a few plants at Union Vale Estate fruit much more abundantly than others, that 22 out of 60 plants have fruited and that two dozen fruits have given about 3,000 seedlings. The species introduced is very similar (except in the dimensions of leaves and flowers) to *Vahea Madagascariensis*, Baj., described in Jumolle "Les Plantes à Caoutchouc et à gutta dans les Colonies Françaises, 1898." There are however so many plants known under the same name in Madagascar and not yet identified that the exact name of the introduced plant had better be reserved. It is probably issued from the variety of *Landolphia* known in Madagascar as "Mandriannambo" and described in the "Bulletin Economique de Madagascar, 1903."

The owners of Union Vale Estate very kindly placed at our disposal three of the plants which were considered of sufficient size to be tapped in January, 1908. They had reached over 15 yards in length, and projected over the tops of the tallest trees. Each of them was detached from the prop, and all branches were removed from the main stems and set apart except those branches which were less than one-third of an inch in diameter. It is no easy matter to remove a creeper of such dimensions from the crown of a tall tree, and a man would probably not remove more than two such creepers in one day. The creepers were then cut into small sections of three to four feet in length, which were placed with the lower ends downwards on a "farafara" to allow the latex to flow. It is impossible to tap these rubber plants by cutting into the bark periodically, owing to the diameter not exceeding two inches, their enormous length, and their position on more or less inaccessible trees. They have to be cut down at about five to ten

The above figures go to show that the *Landolphia* creepers deserve a better place in tropical plantations than that which they have hitherto occupied; especially in mountainous countries where cultivated areas are sparsely distributed leaving intermediate zones which are considered too rocky for ordinary cultivation.

This is the case in Seychelles, where many mountain slopes and worn-out estates might with advantage be devoted to the culture of *Vahea* rubber.

It is very curious to note in the above figures the great percentage of bark obtained from the stems. This is not the case with other plants which yield useful barks, and is worth being recorded. The plants experimented with were only five years old, and have yielded above 40 per cent. of bark. Another deduction from the above figures is the poor yield of latex per vine and the very small percentage of rubber contained in the latex. It is evident that along with the latex a great amount of sap exudes when the portions of stems are placed on the "farafara," and that rubber extraction by pounding is the only practical way of obtaining rubber from that plant.

Mr. Thiry, of Madagascar, who has studied these plants carefully, gives preference to them over the other trees introduced into Madagascar, including *Hevea*. A yield of about $\frac{1}{2}$ a pound per vine, which we obtained after five years growth in Seychelles, places the *Landolphia* creepers above Ceara rubber, but *Hevea Brasiliensis* and *Castilloa Elastica* have shown better results in Ceylon, the Straits, and Mexico. It is generally said that a tree is tapped yearly and gives a yearly product, whilst the *Landolphia* creepers have to be cut down, and a second crop is obtained only five years after. This is a serious argument against rubber vines, but we are only considering the mountainous zones which have to be kept wooded for sanitary purposes, and where tree planting is considered too expensive to be worth while being carried out with success. In these zones *Hevea* and *Castilloa* would be much more expensive to cultivate, and have not hitherto been experimented with. Further, rubber from young *Hevea* has been obtained only since a few years, and no definite information can as yet be obtained regarding the quantity of rubber removed from a tree during a long period of time. The figures given in Ceylon tend to show that the quality of the latex is impaired by tapping every year, and it is probable that triennial or periodical tapplings will in future be adopted, thus narrowing the great difference of yield between trees and creepers for a given period of time. There is another point to which the attention of planters has been called by Mr. Thiry; it is the variation, as shown also in our figures, in the yield of latex and rubber from individual vines. It would be quite possible to take advantage of this variation in selecting plants for propagation. The *Vahea* creepers grow very easily from cuttings, and a whole creeper five years old, with the exception of its tender extremities, might be used to make cuttings, which sprout very easily in alluvial soil. By certain improved methods even the small twigs might be used as cuttings, but leaving these aside, at least 100 cuttings might be obtained from a single creeper. In Madagascar the seeds are not easily obtainable, and it is probable that the climate of that Colony, together with the methods of harvesting have something to do with the frequent occurrence of the fruitless varieties.

It is very likely that the calm, moist, and warm climate of Seychelles induces the same plant to fruit more freely, and there is therefore no question of the difficulties which would stand in the way of propagating good varieties. When one sees the compact heads of the creepers projecting above the supporting trees, one is struck by the limited space which is required by this plant. As many as 200 can easily be planted to the acre. Taking only 150 and allowing a yield of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per tree in five years it would be worth while planting large areas, of which portions would be utilised every year in order to obtain a yearly product, one-fifth of the plantation being worked out at a time. A crop of 75 lbs. of rubber at 2s. per lb. is not to be neglected in mountainous districts which have no chance of being opened properly.

The rubber obtained from the latex and also by pounding the bark possessed the characteristic pink colour and will be sent to the Imperial Institute for analysis and valuation.

RESOURCES OF THE OUTLYING ISLANDS.

20. The following articles were exported in 1907 from the outlying islands :—

Guano	Tons	14,571	Rs. 395,630
Mangrove bark	Kilos.	66,167	„ 3,049
Calipee	„	11,208	„ 8,072
Salted fish	„	16,410	„ 2,776
Cahouanne (green turtle shells)	„	759	„ 380
Tortoise shell	„	734	„ 30,974
Trepang	„	2,351	„ 1,000

Guano extraction and exportation is increasing considerably and affording employment to labourers of the Colony.

21. The question of the exportation of mangrove and other barks from Aldabra received in 1907 the attention of Professor Dunstan, who forwarded the following report in January, 1908 :—

Sample.	Percentage of tannin.
<i>Rhizophora mucromata</i> (Manglier hauban)—	
Root bark from old trees	33·90
Stem „ „ „	35·04
Branch „ „ „	34·50
Scrapings from old stem bark	6·27
Root bark from young trees	17·77
Stem „ „ „	29·71
Branch „ „ „	25·50
<i>Brughiera gymnorhiza</i> (Grand manglier rouge)—	
Bark from stem	45·04
„ branch	41·76
Scrapings from branch bark	7·50
<i>Ceriops Candolleana</i> (Manglier jaune)—	
Bark from stem	35·00
„ branch	34·82
Scrapings from stem bark	14·50
„ branch bark	13·23
<i>Avicennia officinalis</i> (Manglier blanc)—	
Bark from stem	3·50
<i>Pemphis acidula</i> (Bois d'amanides)—	
Bark from stem	42·54
Scrapings from stem bark	3·50

Subjoined is an abstract of Professor Dunstan's report as issued in the Gazette :—

“ Bark containing 38 to 40 per cent. of tannin can be sold on the London market at prices from £3 15s. and upwards, but bark below these standards is not saleable. Machinery can be obtained at no great cost for the preparation of extract; extract containing 69 per cent. is worth £11 per ton.

“ The results obtained from *Brughiera* and *Pemphis* are satisfactory.

“ The results from *Rhizophora* and *Ceriops* are both disappointing. The percentage sometimes obtained from *Rhizophora* on the East African Coast ranges up to 48 per cent.

“ The bark from old trees is much richer than the bark from young trees and is also more easy to harvest; the bark of the stem is the richest, and the bark of the branches is rather richer than the bark of the roots.

“ The removal of the outer bark by scraping permits of a higher percentage in all cases.”

22. The exportation of calipee, green turtle shell, treparg, and salted fish might be increased, but the preparation of these articles leaves only a small margin of profit, except the manufacture of salted fish, which deserves a better place in the list of exports.

23. Mr. Stanley Gardiner, F.R.S., in the report of the Percy Sladen Expedition, calls the attention of the inhabitants of Seychelles to another organism of possible commercial value—the black-lipped oyster, the shells of which are largely used for buttons and inlay work. The oysters are common in the lagoons of Farquhar, St. François, possibly Alphonse, Des Roches, &c., and the question of establishing an industry depends on the possibility of providing artificial areas for spawning. Rays are the chief enemies of the organism, which must have patches free from grass-like weeds (*Cymodocea*) so as to attach itself to the ground. In shallow lagoons it would not be difficult to eradicate the green grass-like weeds, but the question is more difficult to deal with in deep lagoons. In this case, however, the artificial cultivation of the oyster might be carried on by taking large spawning shells into the barachois of some of the islands and keeping them there surrounded by hurdles, on which the spat might affix itself, in much the same way as the artificial cultivation of sponges is carried on.

24. *Sponges*.—These organisms have been found in many places by Professor Gardiner. In fact, near most islands visited by the latter, there is scarcely any spot where, in dredging at the right depth, sponges have not been found. Even around the edge of the Mahé banks at 34 to 44 fathoms life was found to be very active and sponges were obtained in five consecutive hauls.

Pamphlets obtained from the Colonial Office describing the methods of fishing sponges off Cuba and Florida were circulated amongst members of the Agricultural Board and then handed over to the firms interested in the outlying islands. Samples of Bahamas grass sponge, Bahamas reef sponge, Cuban velvet sponge, and Florida rock island sheep's wool sponge were also received and compared with specimens collected on the beach at Astove, Marie Louise, and Des Neufs Islands. These two articles, black-lipped oysters and sponges, might eventually be added to the list of exports as soon as communication with the outlying islands will have been regularly established.

25. Amongst other resources of the outlying islands, a special mention might also be made of a rubber plant that grows wild at St. Pierre, Astove, Assumption, Cosmoledo, and Aldabra, and which covers at least 10,000 acres of rocky ground. In some places where the soil is rich this plant (*Euphorbia Abbottii*) reaches a diameter of 8 to 10 inches and a height of 30 feet, but in most places it is a shrub of much smaller dimensions. On being tapped a latex flows rapidly out, and even out of the extremities of the branches one can collect a litre of latex from a tree in a few minutes.

In 1905 when I visited St. Pierre for the first time, I collected this latex which I found, after coagulation by heat and by acetic acid, to be deprived of elasticity. It contains apparently a very high percentage of resin, but this latex could perhaps be treated in the same way as the latex from *Euphorbia fulva* of Mexico from which both rubber and resin have been separated into commercial form by Professor Lozano (Kew Bulletin No. 7 of 1907).

DESTRUCTION OF INSECT PESTS.

26. In my report for 1906, I gave a list of scale insects and mealy bugs which attacked nearly all plants grown in Seychelles. The following additional plant lice have this year been kindly identified by Mr. E. E. Green, and the list is not yet exhausted:—

1. <i>Icerya Seychellarum</i>	...	On Casuarina, Amirantes, Seychelles.
"	"	... On Musa, Seychelles.
"	"	... On Citrus, Seychelles.
"	"	... On Scaevola Koenigii, Amirantes.
"	"	... On Cocos nucifera, Amirantes.
"	"	... On Pithecolobium, Boehmeria.
"	"	... On Bixa, Wormia, Punica, Seychelles.

2. <i>Dactylopius citri</i> ...	On Scaevola Koenigii, Farquhar.
" " ...	On Morinda citrifolia, Amirantes.
" " ...	On Desmanthus, Aldabra.
3. <i>Pulvinaria Psidii</i> ...	On Pisonia macrophylla, Farquhar.
" " ...	On Chrysophyllum, Seychelles.
" " ...	On Tomato, Astove.
" " ...	On Pisonia, St. Pierre.
" " ...	On Pisonia, Providence.
4. <i>Pulvinaria antioqui</i> ...	On Antigonon, Seychelles.
5. <i>Cerophastes floridensis</i> ...	On undetermined plant, St. Anne.
6. <i>Cerophastes ternutectus</i> sp. nov.	On "Bois la fumée," Aldabra.
7. <i>Vinsonia Stellifera</i> ...	On Chrysophyllum, Seychelles.
" " ...	On Achras, Seychelles.
" " ...	On Paladium, Seychelles.
8. <i>Lecanium oleae</i> ...	On Ficus indica, Amirantes.
" " ...	On Schmidelia, Adalbra.
9. <i>Lecanium nigrum</i> ...	On Jacaranda minosaeifolia, Seychelles
" " ...	On Hibiscus, Seychelles.
10. <i>Lecanium Hesperidum</i> ...	On Cassia siamea, Seychelles.
" " ...	Rubiaceae, Aldabra.
11. <i>Lecanium tessellatum</i> ...	On Scaevola, Farquhar.
" " ...	On Achras, Seychelles.
" " ...	On Coffea Liberica, Seychelles.
" " ...	On Chrysophyllum, Seychelles.
" " ...	On Cocos mucifera, Farquhar.
12. <i>Lecanium longulum</i> ...	On Anona squamosa, Seychelles.
13. <i>Lecanium frontale</i> ...	On Casuarina, Seychelles.
14. <i>Chionaspis inday</i> ...	On areca nut, Seychelles.
" " ...	On coconut, Seychelles.
15. <i>Hemichionaspis minor</i> ...	On cotton, Cargados, Seychelles.
" " ...	On Hibiscus, Seychelles.
16. <i>Hemichionaspis aspidistrae</i> ...	On Hiliconia, Seychelles.
17. <i>Diaspis pentagona</i> ...	On Carica Papaya, Seychelles.
18. <i>Aspidiotus canmelliae</i> ...	On Indigofera, Seychelles.
19. <i>Aspidiotus ficus</i> ...	On Citrus, Seychelles.
" " ...	On roses, Seychelles.
20. <i>Aspidiotus lataniae</i> ...	On Vitis, Seychelles.
" " ...	On Ficus indica, Seychelles.
21. <i>Mytilaspis citricola</i> ...	On all citrus trees, Seychelles.
22. <i>Mytilaspis auriculata</i> ...	On Croton, Seychelles.
23. <i>Mytilaspis ocellata</i> ...	On Davallia, Seychelles.
24. <i>Chronaspis dilatata</i> ...	On coconut, Seychelles.

27. A very large increase in the number of each species of these insects is again recorded this year. This has been brought about by a proportional increase in the number of ants which live in association with the *hemiptera*. The time is come for an effort for destroying these insects and their commensals, but, unless measures of destruction are adopted everywhere and at the same time, it will be necessary to pass an Ordinance to enforce common action. In reading the above list of insects one is struck by their very widespread prevalence. Their presence in many parts of the world where they have been successfully combated is a safeguard for the success of the destructive measures which should be adopted :

(1) By introducing lady-bird beetles. In Hawaii, great success has attended the introduction of predacious insects. Lady-bird beetles, such as (a) *Morus Cardinalis*, have destroyed *Icerya purchasi* on Citrus trees ; (b) *Cryptolomus Montrouzier* proved very useful against *Pulvinaria psidii* which attacks coffee, and both these plant lice or very nearly allied species are found in Seychelles.

The public are always inclined to dread the introduction of insects and animals from one country to another, bearing in mind the importation of the rabbit in Australia and of the mongoose into the West Indies. The

introduction of insects is quite a different thing, because predatory insects are always predatory upon other insects and not destructive to agriculture.

We have in Seychelles five different species of lady-bird beetles, but they do their work very seldom owing to their preferring particular growths amongst the great variety of plants that are found on the same plot of ground. They are naturally very sparsely distributed, and it is only occasionally that one comes across them in large colonies. A small reddish beetle and a small black one are the two parasites that are commonly seen attacking respectively: *Icerya* and *Diaspis* coccids, and, when they find a good spot (shaded and cool) they are intensely destructive to plant lice as one can judge by their number and the dead bodies of their victims.

But all trees that are being destroyed by the plant lice are not visited by these beetles, and attempts are being made at the Botanic Station to breed and propagate them more thoroughly. The foregoing remarks go to show that the introduction of lady-bird beetles is a measure that should be recommended to the planters, although there will be some difficulty in getting them from Australia or Hawaii, where they are to be found in large colonies.

28. This measure would, however, not be sufficient, because many scale insects, for example: *Apidiotus*, *Mytilaspis*, *Lecanium*, &c., escape the attacks of the beetles and should be destroyed by insecticides and by burning those plants which are on the verge of succumbing and by burning damaged portions of plants where the insects congregate.

In burning, however, care should be taken not to destroy the natural parasites (lady-birds) which should be removed to other trees as much as possible beforehand. It is to be noted that only those parts of the plants that are weakened by age or insufficiency of food are those that are as a rule liable to the attacks of plant lice.

Therefore, the destruction by fire of these parts will not be detrimental to the vigour of the trees under treatment. The lady-bird beetles themselves have no parasite that we have come across (*Hymenoptera*).

29. The best remedies in the case of insects that are not got rid of by natural parasites, and which live on plants which cannot be destroyed by fire, would be to adopt insecticides. Besides petroleum emulsion which gives such a good result on the soft bodies of mealy bugs the soda resin solution give very good results in destroying the other scale insects. The soda resin solution (3 lbs. soda, 4 lbs. of resin dissolved by heating slowly in two gallons of water and diluted five times before employment) is very efficacious in depositing a film or crust on the surface of the animals which are at once suffocated. The same solution kills out the ants in a few seconds in the same way.

30. A process which I have adopted for the destruction of both insects is the following: a piece of rag is wound round the stems of the trees that have just been sprayed, and every two days this is soaked in a solution of petroleum and soap. The ants that live in association with the scale insects are prevented by the soap solution from climbing up the trees, and congregate near the rag where they are sprayed over with the resin solution. The destruction processess should be combined on the same estate, and special attention should be paid to the destruction of ants. Ordinary methods will not do for the destruction of the latter, because these make their nest anywhere on the trees even between two leaves if they do not find a more convenient place. But sulphur and arsenic fumes applied by means of the ant exterminator might suffice in some cases, especially in skilful hands. An easy method is to soak in petroleum a bit of rag tied to a stick, light it, and burn it in the track of the ants, which are commonly seen in long processions everywhere.

After heavy showers of rain the number of ants that die is enormous and for this reason their destruction should be carried out periodically. During the dry season their destruction is more difficult, and the plants that

are being attacked should be treated more carefully at that time owing to the insecticides being sometimes corrosive when not properly mixed. The question of destroying the ants entirely is not contemplated, even if it were possible, because these insects play a certain part in the tropics which should not be lost sight of. They are very good scavengers, not only by removing dead animal matter, but also by sucking out all the noxious liquids so liable to putrefaction that are derived from animal and vegetable matters. It is interesting to see the number of ants that swarm in the guano islands, where so much animal matter is being decomposed. For this reason the ants' commensals, *i.e.*, the coccids which are so much complained of in Mahé are quite as common in the outlying islands as they are in the more inhabited places.

It is said that the small black ant, which increases in Mahé, has been introduced from Ceylon together with the Para rubber plants. I have sent to Ceylon and to England the insects in question for identification, although I do not think that they have been introduced. I have found them in out of the way localities, and on islands where rubber has not been introduced.

There are many other ants of very nearly allied species, that swarm everywhere in Seychelles and live in symbiosis with the coccids. In Praslin the ants in question are of reddish coloration, and many spots in Mahé are invaded by a black and red ant and by another very small black ant that help just the same in the propagation of coccids.

R. DUPONT,
Curator, Botanic Station.

Mahé,
20th April, 1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
533	Wei-hai-wei	1906
534	Gold Coast	"
535	Malta	1906-1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906-1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
539	Leeward Islands	"
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906-1907
543	Bahamas	"
544	Barbados	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago	"
546	Grenada	"
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
549	Jamaica	1906-1907
550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia... ..	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906-1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar	"
564	Asbanti	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907-1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
44	East Africa Protectorate	Survey Department.
45	Do. do.	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1904-5.
47	Do. do.	Do. 1905-6.
48	Nyasaland Protectorate	Do.
49	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c... ..	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa... ..	Native Education.

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1903.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 588.

SIERRA LEONE.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 531.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

November, 1908.



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No. 588.

SIERRA LEONE.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 531.)

THE ACTING-GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Freetown,
Sierra Leone,
4th September, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone for the year 1907, together with a copy of the report thereon.

I have, &c.,

G. B. HADDON SMITH,
Acting-Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE FOR THE YEAR 1907.

1. Sierra Leone is situated between 7° and 10° N. latitude and between $10^{\circ} 40'$ and $13^{\circ} 21'$ of W. longitude. The estimated area of the Colony and Protectorate is 32,100 square miles.

2. It is divided for the purposes of administration into the Colony and Protectorate. Roughly speaking the Colony comprises the coast line, and the Protectorate the hinterland of Sierra Leone.

3. The Protectorate is divided into six districts as follows:—

Karene District.—Headquarters Batkanu.

Ronietta District.—Headquarters Moyamba.

Railway District.—Headquarters Kennema.

Central District (temporary).—Headquarters Makondo.

Koinadugu District.—Headquarters Kaballa.

Northern Sherbro District.—Headquarters Shengay.

The accompanying map of the Colony and Protectorate shows the chief administrative divisions into which it is divided, also the railway, telegraph, and chief towns and rivers.

I.—FINANCIAL.

REVENUE.

4. The receipts for 1907, including land sales, amounted to £359,104 1s. 6d., being £48,594 1s. 6d. in excess of the amount originally estimated, and £15,178 1s. 6d. more than the Revised Estimate. The revenue exceeded the expenditure by £13,536 17s. 10d.

5. The revenue for 1907 exceeded that for 1906 by £54,029 19s. 10d., the main factors in this large increase being:—

	£	s.	d.
(a) Customs	35,401	9	2
(b) Railway	12,492	13	5
(c) Protectorate	3,277	2	9
	£51,171	5	4

As the gradual development of the Protectorate proceeds, owing to the improved facilities afforded by the railway and roads for the transportation of produce, the effect is shown in the marked increase in the exports of the Colony, which have doubled in value during the last five years, having reached £831,299 in the year under review.

In sympathy with the increase in the exports there has been a corresponding increase in the value of imports, which amounted in 1907 to £988,022, and in the resulting receipts from Customs duties.



It is upon the three sources of revenue mentioned above, in the order stated, that the material prosperity of the Colony depends, as, taken together, they represent 90 per cent. of the total revenue collected.

The House Tax continues to be paid promptly and cheerfully by the natives in the Protectorate, who are beginning to realize that the tax is one which has for its object their present and ultimate good.

6. The following comparative statement shows the increase and decrease under the several heads of revenue as compared with the receipts for the previous year:—

—	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	162,657	198,058	35,401	—
Port, harbour and lighthouse dues.	3,558	4,083	525	—
Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	3,942	4,565	623	—
Fees of Court or Office, payments for specific services, reimbursements-in-aid.	7,685	8,031	346	—
Post Office and Savings Bank ...	8,179	8,767	588	—
Rents of Government property...	566	581	15	—
Interest	6,741	6,734	—	7
Miscellaneous receipts	832	627	—	205
Railway	62,020	74,513	12,493	—
Land sales	37	1,011	974	—
Protectorate	48,857	52,134	3,277	—
Total	305,074	359,104	54,242	212

7. The revenue for the five years 1903-1907 is as follows:—

	£
1903	237,534
1904	240,472
1905	281,523
1906	305,074
1907	359,104

EXPENDITURE.

8. The payments during the year amounted to £345,567 3s. 8d., being £45,806 3s. 8d. in excess of the amount originally estimated and £13,536 17s. 10d. less than the revenue. The Expenditure was £59,906 5s. 5d. more than that for 1906.

9. In the total expenditure stated above the sum of £41,663 19s. 0d. is included under Public Works Extraordinary (Special). This represents special expenditure on the construction of tram lines in the Protectorate as feeders to the railway, which was authorized to be met from surplus balances. The ordinary expenditure, therefore, from current revenue was £303,903 4s. 8d., which is £4,542 4s. 8d. in excess of the amount appropriated.

10. Supplementary expenditure under various heads (including £35,000 for construction of tram lines from surplus balances) amounting to £56,230 16s. 4d. was authorized during the year, which, together with the amount appropriated by law, aggregates £355,991 16s. 4d.; but owing to savings having been effected under other heads there was a net saving of £10,424 12s. 8d. on the total actual expenditure as compared with the total amount authorized.

11. Owing to the increased revenue for 1907, the special expenditure referred to above has not only been met without disturbing the surplus funds of the Colony, but those funds have been augmented by £13,536 17s. 10d.

12. Special expenditure amounting to £1,870 2s. 7d. was found necessary in order to maintain detachments of the West African Frontier Force on the Liberian frontier owing to the unsettled condition of that part of Liberia near the frontier. The expense incurred in this connection since 1905, when an expedition was sent against the Kissis—a warlike tribe in Liberia whom it was necessary to punish on account of their frequent raids into the Sierra Leone Protectorate—amounts to £12,236 3s. 6d.

13. The following table gives in detail the expenditure for the year as compared with that for 1906:—

Heads of Expenditure.	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Charge on account of public debt	48,171	54,435	6,264	—
Pensions	6,444	7,299	855	—
Governor and legislature ...	3,719	6,216	2,497	—
Colonial Secretary's Department	3,859	3,874	15	—
Provincial administration ...	2,002	2,701	699	—
Treasury	2,291	2,552	261	—
Customs Department	9,867	11,015	1,148	—
Audit	1,783	2,120	337	—
Port and marine	1,032	1,053	21	—
Legal	5,057	5,266	209	—
Civil police	8,418	8,599	181	—
Prisons	4,794	5,147	353	—
Medical	6,306	7,030	724	—
Hospital and dispensaries ...	5,450	5,087	—	363
Nursing home	726	830	104	—
Education	4,017	3,377	—	640
Transport	3,488	—	—	3,488
Miscellaneous services	12,394	10,918	—	1,476
Post office	9,043	9,792	749	—
Public Works Department ...	2,602	2,950	348	—
" recurrent	6,888	10,164	3,276	—
" extraordinary	5,332	15,374	10,042	—
" (special)	—	41,664	41,664	—
Sierra Leone Batt. (W.A.F.F.)...	23,515	22,890	—	625
Sierra Leone Government Rail- way.	56,568	67,460	10,892	—
Protectorate	51,895	37,754	—	14,141
Total	285,661	345,567	80,639	20,733

14. The expenditure for the five years 1903-1907 is as follows:—

	£
1903	206,464
1904	237,892
1905	295,490
1906	285,661
1907	345,567

LOAN EXPENDITURE.

15. The net proceeds of the authorized loan of £1,250,000 issued in 1904 was further reduced by £191 17s. 6d., being the expenses incurred during the year in converting Bonds into Stock. From the amount available for carrying on the works and undertakings provided for under the Loan Ordinance and for various works subsequently authorized to be met from loan funds, the sum of £1,166,815 10s. 4d. had been expended at 31st December, 1907, leaving £28,830 10s. 3d. available for completing any works which had not been finished at that date.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

16. The excess of assets over liabilities at 31st December, 1907, amounted to £131,144 19s. 3d., exclusive of the value of the Railway Department Stores on hand at that date, which appears in a "Suspense Account" and amounts to £20,019 10s. 2d.

PUBLIC DEBT.

17. The funded debt of the Colony at the close of the year amounted to £1,280,137, made up of:—

	£
4 per cent. Ten-year Convertible Bonds	607,400
3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock 1929-1954	672,737

Bonds to the value of £29,800 were converted under the terms of issue into Stock value £30,694 at a premium of 3 per cent.

The first contribution towards the Sinking Fund was made during the year and converted into Securities to the value of £6,400 13s. 8d., which reduces the actual Public Debt to £1,273,736 6s. 4d.

CURRENCY.

18. In addition to the current coins of the United Kingdom the following coins are legal tender in Sierra Leone:—

	£	s.	d.
Gold {	Spanish and Mexican Doubloon	3	4 0
	French Napoleon (20 franc piece)	0	15 10
	American Eagle	2	1 0
	" Half-Eagle	1	0 6
Silver {	" Quarter Eagle	0	10 3
	French, Belgian, Swiss, and Italian 5-franc pieces	0	3 10½

Although the foreign coins mentioned above are legal tender in the Colony, the gold coins are now hardly ever seen, and with the exception of the French 5-franc piece the other silver coins are rare.

The amount of coin in circulation is estimated at between £50,000 and £60,000.

It is estimated that a considerable amount of gold coinage is annually converted by the natives into jewellery.

There is a branch of the Bank of British West Africa established in Freetown with an agency at Be, one of the chief industrial centres in the Protectorate.

Bills of Exchange on their principals in Europe may also be obtained from some of the mercantile establishments in the Colony.

For the convenience of the mercantile community Inland Bills for sums of not less than £25 are issued at par by the Colonial Treasurer on the sub-Treasuries of the various districts.

MUNICIPALITIES.

Freetown Municipal Board.

19. The financial year of the Freetown Municipal Board is from 1st November of one year to 31st October of the following year. The revenue received from all sources during the period 1st November, 1906, to 31st October, 1907, amounted to £9,018, showing an increase of £2,436 over the amount derived for the financial year ended 31st October, 1906. Out of the total revenue received, Water Rates contributed £1,549. This largely accounts for the increase of the revenue for the period under review as compared with the previous year.

The expenditure of the Board amounted to £9,082, an increase of £2,410 over the figures for the previous financial year.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Board including the Government grant-in-aid (£1,800 per annum):—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1903 	5,102	4,936
1904 	6,567	7,685
1905 	6,185	7,163
1906 	6,582	6,672
1907 	9,018	9,082

The municipality has a debt of £2,800, lent to them by the Government for the carrying out of municipal works, for the redemption of which a Sinking Fund has been provided.

Sherbro Municipal Board.

20. The revenue of the Sherbro Municipal Board, which is derived from the proceeds of rates, tolls, and fees, supplemented

by a grant of £300 per annum from the Colonial House Tax collected within the Sherbro district and a grant-in-aid of £152 from general revenue for Sanitary Police in Bonthe, amounted during the year to £1,440 10s. 11d. The expenditure for the same period was £935 7s. 0d.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

21. The value of imports into the Colony for the year 1907 amounted to £988,022, being an increase of £102,171 over the figures for the previous year.

22. The following table shows the value of the imports for the five years 1903-1907:—

	£
1903	700,826
1904	717,236
1905	702,648
1906	885,851
1907	988,022

23. Sierra Leone participated in the wave of commercial prosperity which made itself felt all over the world about three years ago and which lasted until the latter end of 1907. Its effect is seen in the very appreciable increase in the Customs receipts for the year 1907.

24. The gross revenue collected by the Customs Department during the year under review amounted to £205,671, or, after deductions in respect of drawbacks and refunds of duty, to £203,803, which is £35,916 in excess of that for 1906. As no additional imposts were levied, the result is very gratifying. The amount received in 1907 constitutes a record.

25. It is a coincidence that the increase in the amount of import duties exactly corresponds with the increase in the gross revenue collected by the Customs Department. The increase in the import duties was made up of *ad valorem* duties, £6,030, and specific duties, £29,886.

26. The articles mainly responsible for the increase in the imports are gin, rum, unmanufactured tobacco, cotton goods, and kerosine oil, for which there was an increased demand brought about by the high prices given for the produce of the Colony in the European markets. The high prices received by the people for their produce enable them to gratify their tastes for such luxuries as spirits, tobacco, cotton goods, &c., to a greater extent than usual.

27. Among the imports are certain items, viz., coal, kola nuts, palm kernels, and rubber, which are not imported for consumption, but which are exported to ports beyond the limits of the Colony.

28. As most of the coal is supplied to ships calling at this port, the large increase in the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared from ports of the Colony during 1907 as shown under "Shipping" would account for the increase of the quantity of coal imported.

29. Although coal does not contribute directly to the revenue of the Customs Department, being one of the items on the free list of imports, yet its importation is recognized as a commodity requiring the employment of labour, and, as such, it contributes indirectly to the commercial prosperity of the Colony. The imports during the last year have risen by 7,723 tons.

30. The table published in the Blue Book shows the quantities, value, and duties collected on all alcoholic liquors imported during the years 1906-1907. It also shows the increases or decreases in 1907 in each class of alcoholic liquor as compared with 1906.

31. The years most suitable for comparison are 1906 and 1907, because prior to 1906 the quantities were computed in gallons of proof spirit instead of as at present in liquid gallons showing the percentage volume of alcohol. This alteration in the method of computing the quantities of spirits made no change in the amount of duty charged on the alcoholic strength.

32. It will be seen that the duties derived from alcoholic liquors amounted to £93,361, an increase of £19,074 over those for 1906.

33. The import duties on alcoholic liquors contributed in 1907 46·98 per cent. to the total Customs revenue.

EXPORTS.

34. The total value of exports for 1907 was £831,259, being an increase of £114,636 over that for 1906.

35. The following table shows the value of the exports from the Colony for the five years 1903-1907, distinguishing the produce and manufactures of the Colony from other exports:—

Year.	Produce and manufactures of the Colony.	British, Foreign, and other Colonial produce and manufactures.				Grand Total.
		Coal.	Specie.	Other.	Total British, Foreign, and other Colonial produce and manufactures.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1903 ...	331,154	—	77,330	10,147	—	—
1904 ...	356,024	40,052	77,875	10,919	128,846	484,870
1905 ...	435,806	27,780	87,590	11,974	127,344	563,150
1906 ...	526,342	43,526	121,451	25,304	190,281	716,623
1907 ...	675,544	44,118	96,827	14,770	155,715	831,259

36. The increase is due to the increased export of raw materials, which are responsible for £126,888, and to that of manufactured materials, which amounted to £10,816.

37. The exports of specie, on the other hand, show a decrease of £24,624. From the classification of exports for the five years 1903-1907 published in the Trade Return, which is arranged so as to distinguish the produce and manufactures of the Colony from British, Foreign, and Colonial produce and manufactures, it will be seen that the value of exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony for last year shows a considerable increase as compared with the figures for 1906; but it should be explained that this increase has been caused not so much by the increased quantities exported, as by the abnormally high prices for the articles in question then ruling in the European and local markets.

38. The items principally affected in point of value are palm kernels, palm oil, and kola nuts, the increases on which amount collectively to £160,374, and account in a great measure for the excess in value of the 1907 exports over those for 1906.

39. The exports of coal show a slight increase due, as before stated, to the increased numbers of steamers which called at the port during 1907.

40. Specie has decreased by £24,624 owing to the diminution in the quantity imported during 1907 for transmission to other parts of the coast.

INCREASES IN EXPORTS.

41. Palm kernels continue to be the most important article of the produce of the Colony exported. The value exported in 1907 amounted to £447,801, or 66·30 per cent. of the total value of the exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony. The quantity exported during 1907 was 34,942 tons as compared with 30,373 of the value of £330,427 in 1906. It will be seen that the value increased out of all proportion to the quantity; this was due to the high price obtained for the commodity during the greater part of 1907. The exports of palm kernels have, during the last five years, been steadily increasing both in quantity and in proportion to the total value of all exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony, notwithstanding the diminution in prices towards the latter part of 1907 as compared with the corresponding period in 1906.

The demand in the latter part of 1906 and for the greater part of 1907 for palm kernels, and the consequent high prices ruling in the European markets for them, were probably brought about by the necessity for obtaining a suitable substitute for animal fats, a deficiency in the supply of which was caused by the tinned-meat scare in America, and the shrinkage in the export of fats during and immediately after the Russo-Japanese war.

42. The bulk of the palm kernels continues to be exported to Germany. Out of the total quantity of 34,942 tons 26,693 tons were consigned to that country.

Kola Nuts.

43. The quantity exported in 1907 amounts to 1,374 tons, valued at £113,674, being an increase of 219 tons, of a value of £9,590 over the quantity exported in 1906.

Most of the kola nuts exported are sent to the Gambia, Senegal, and Bissao, where they are consumed by the natives of those places as an article of diet.

44. The kola nut is extensively used by the natives in the Protectorate as a tonic stimulant. One nut well masticated and eaten will, it is said, sustain a man for a whole day without food. The kola nut has no intoxicating or reactionary effect.

45. It is a matter for surprise that the export of kola is not extended to the European markets, where its medicinal effects and sustaining qualities are not unknown. The demand for kola nuts will probably increase, and it should increase in direct proportion to the efforts made by the European merchants connected with kola-producing countries to bring the knowledge of its qualities to the notice of those who can introduce it into more general use in Europe.

Of the total exports of 1,374 tons the Gambia took 514, Senegal 559, and Bissao 249.

Trade in the article has been confined until quite recently to native traders, but of late some of the European firms established here have shown a disposition to increase their dealings in this industry, and this, to some extent, accounts for the increase in the quantity exported during 1907.

Kola nuts take second place as an export of the Colony, and represent 16·83 per cent. of the total value of the exports of produce and manufactures of the Colony.

Palm Oil.

46. The quantity of palm oil exported during the year amounted to 615,997 gallons, of the value of £51,154, being an increase over the figures for 1906 of 240,424 gallons, of the value of £23,410. These figures represent an increase of 64 per cent. in quantity and 84·37 per cent. in value over the exports for 1906.

This large increase is undoubtedly due to the high prices prevailing for the greater part of 1907, but the demand would have remained unsatisfied to a large extent as far as this Colony was concerned, had the difficulties of transport not been largely overcome by the improved facilities afforded by the Sierra Leone Government Railway and by the excellent system of

roads which have now been opened up in the principal palm-oil producing districts of the Protectorate. In addition to this, the action of the Government in encouraging the output of palm oil by assisting the people to obtain receptacles in which to transport their oil and by persuading the native chiefs to amend the Porroh Law so as to allow of the picking of the palm nuts at the most suitable time for the extraction of the oil made itself felt throughout the Administration—official and native—and gave an additional impulse to the production of the commodity.

47. There is a difference between the proportion of oil to kernels exported from this Colony as compared with the exports of the two articles from the other British Colonies and Protectorates on the West Coast of Africa. A table published in the Trade Report gives full particulars of this difference. What the causes of it are it is impossible, owing to insufficient data, to state definitely, but there are many factors which contribute in a greater or lesser degree to the result: probably the most important of them is that, owing to the scarcity of labour, which prevents the picking of the nuts from the trees at the period when the pericarp or oil-producing covering is full of oil, a large proportion of the kernels exported are gathered from the ground where they have fallen from the trees after the oil-producing covering has perished.

Ginger.

48. The exports for 1907, which amounted to 618 tons, of a value of £11,578, show an increase of 39 tons, valued at £699, compared with the figures for 1906.

Considerable attention has been paid by some of the farmers to the better cultivation and preparation of ginger for the market, but there still remains much to be done.

There is a future for the ginger of Sierra Leone, but it will not compete seriously with other and better-known gingers until improved methods of cultivation and preparation for the market are more generally adopted.

Rice.

49. The quantity of rice exported during 1907 has been the largest on record. It amounted to 30,768 bushels, valued at £5,635. This is an increase of 8,370 bushels, of a value of £2,055 over that exported in 1906.

Some years ago the quantity of rice exported was inconsiderable, and it is a sign of the Colony's advancement that the export has increased to the proportion it now assumes. As a result of the increase in production less rice has been imported. As rice is still the staple article of diet of the natives of Sierra Leone, the conclusion to be drawn is that the quantity exported represents the surplus remaining after local requirements have been satisfied.

50. The locally-grown rice is preferred both by natives and Europeans to the imported Indian rice, both on account of its flavour and of its more nourishing properties. The increase in the exports would seem to show that these advantages are also being recognized in other places, and as it gets better known the exports from Sierra Leone should increase.

At present nearly the whole quantity exported finds its way to the other West African Colonies.

DECREASES IN EXPORT.

Benniseed.

51. Benniseed, the exports of which have been languishing for some years, has now entirely disappeared from the list of exports, not one pound being exported in 1907. Benniseed is no longer cultivated as an article of export. The prices obtained for it in the local market have of late years been more remunerative to the producer than those obtainable in markets out of the Colony, and the quantity now grown is only sufficient for home consumption.

It was formerly exported to the United Kingdom, Germany, and France.

Rubber.

52. The exports of this product during the year again show a falling off, the quantity shipped during 1907 being 73 tons, valued at £22,480, as compared with 107 tons, valued at £30,170 in 1906.

53. It is probable that one of the causes contributing to this decrease is the action taken by some of the chiefs to prevent the ruthless tapping and destruction of the rubber-producing plants which formerly obtained. They are gradually realizing that if they allow this wasteful method to continue the source of the supply will be eventually destroyed.

Another cause of the decrease is the duty charged on all rubber exported from Liberia into Sierra Leone across the frontier, which has had the effect of putting a stop to the trade which formerly existed.

DIRECTION OF TRADE.

54. Before making any remarks under this head it should be explained that the ports mentioned in the Blue Book as being the places from which the goods are imported are not necessarily the places from which the goods were originally obtained; similarly the countries to which exports are shipped are not always the countries of ultimate destination. Were this so, the trade with the United States of America would appear considerably larger than is shown, as all the American products and manufactures passing in transit through Liverpool to this Colony are shown as imports from the United Kingdom.

Formerly American goods came direct from America in sailing ships, but now comparatively few of the imports from that country come direct.

55. The following table shows the percentage proportion of the value of the import trade to total imports, export trade to total exports, and aggregate trade with the United Kingdom, British Colonies and with foreign countries during the years 1906 and 1907:—

Countries.	Import trade.		Export trade.		Aggregate trade.	
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.
United Kingdom...	74.24	71.73	30.5	27.5	54.66	51.50
British Colonies ...	2.74	2.30	13.5	9.1	7.57	5.40
Foreign Countries	23.02	25.97	56.0	63.4	37.77	43.10
Total ...	100	100	100	100	100	100

From the above table it will be seen that the United Kingdom still retains the largest proportion of the import and aggregate trade of the Colony, though the percentage proportion in 1907 compared with 1906 has been reduced by 3.16.

It is significant of the direction of the trade of the Colony that in spite of the system referred to in paragraph 54 the position held by the United Kingdom with respect to the aggregate trade of the Colony has within the last five years been weakened by 5.90 per cent.; the value of such trade has, however, increased by £294,313. The decrease in 1907 appears both in the import and export trade. The aggregate trade with British Colonies has also decreased by 2.17 per cent. On the other hand foreign countries have increased throughout, raising their share of the aggregate trade by 5.33 per cent. in 1907 as compared with 1906.

Foreign countries still continue to absorb the largest proportion of the export trade. This is due to the fact that by far the largest proportion of palm kernels is shipped to Germany.

IMPORT TRADE.

56. The United Kingdom, Holland, Teneriffe, the United States of America, the foreign countries on the West Coast of Africa (more briefly described as the Windward Coast), and the foreign countries on the West Coast of Africa to the south of Sierra Leone (described as the Leeward Coast), are responsible for the principal increases in the imports for 1907 as compared with 1906.

57. The value of the import trade carried on with the United Kingdom is greater than that with any other country

with which we are engaged in trade, and amounted in 1907 to £708,765 as compared with £657,661 in 1906. The increase is attributable to larger importations of wearing apparel, cotton goods, hats and caps, hardware, refined sugar, and woollen goods.

The United Kingdom absorbs 71·74 per cent. of the total import trade of this Colony; Germany comes next; but the value is still insignificant when compared with the United Kingdom. In both cases, however, the percentage in 1907 was less than 1906.

The improvement under Teneriffe is due to larger importations of specie which is imported by the Bank of British West Africa from its agents at that place.

Specie is also responsible for the rise under Leeward Coast. Live stock (principally bullocks) and rubber contributed mainly to the increase in the Windward Coast.

58. It is a matter for regret that the demand for cattle as a food supply cannot be met locally, but the Protectorate of Sierra Leone, except in a few parts, is not suitable for cattle raising on a large scale. For the most part those portions of the country which are not cultivated are covered by dense bush, and it is only in the Koinadugu district and in some parts of the Karene, Ronietta, and Central districts that pasturage is to be found. In these parts cattle are raised to a certain extent, but their number is, comparatively speaking, insignificant. The presence of the tsetse fly also renders the raising of cattle on an extensive scale impracticable.

In those parts of the country where cattle raising is carried on efforts are being made to induce the chiefs to improve their cattle by adopting the method of breeding by selection.

59. The imports from the United States of America amounted to £25,743, but the explanation mentioned in paragraph 54 must be borne in mind when considering these figures.

But for the present system of preparing the import statistics, the United States of America would rank next to the United Kingdom in the volume of imports. The articles principally imported from the United States are lumber, petroleum, unmanufactured tobacco, and flour.

EXPORT TRADE.

60. The returns of the total export trade carried on with various countries again show increases in value, the most important being with the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and the Leeward Coast. In regard to the decreases, the Windward Coast and Liberia are most marked.

61. The total exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony for the year under review amounted to £675,544, or an increase of £149,202 over 1906.

The items which contributed in the greatest measure to the value of the exports to the United Kingdom are ginger, gum

copal, palm oil, and palm kernels. Most of the palm oil still continues to be exported to the United Kingdom. Out of the total shipment of 615,997 gallons in 1907 no less than 552,901 gallons were so consigned.

62. The increase in the exports to Germany which took place in 1906 has been maintained. In 1907 the value of the exports to that country amounted to £118,896, or 51·28 per cent. over that for the previous year. The value of exports to Germany represents more than half the total value, and represents 51·92 per cent. of the total exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony. She has therefore advanced the position she held in 1906 by 7·88 per cent.

Practically the whole of the exports to Germany (£350,720) is made up of palm kernels, the value of which in 1907 amounted to £339,836. As explaining this it may be stated that the price obtained in Germany for kernels is higher than in the other European markets.

63. The trade with foreign West African countries has increased in value but decreased in percentage proportion. It consists principally of kola nuts and rice.

SHIPPING.

64. The number of vessels entered and cleared during the year was 1,916 of a tonnage of 1,890,531. Compared with 1906 this shows an increase of 149 vessels of 205,795 tons. Of the total for 1907, 1,290 vessels of a tonnage of 1,456,906 were British.

65. British and German shipping together represent 85·92 per cent. of the total tonnage entered from all countries.

66. The returns for 1907 show a total tonnage of 727,983 entered under the British flag and 84,074 under the German flag, or 77·01 per cent. and 8·91 per cent., respectively, of the total tonnage entered.

67. The following statement gives the nationalities and tonnage of the ships entered and cleared during the year as compared with 1906:—

Nationality.	1906. No.	1907. No.	1906. Tons.	1907. Tons.
British	1,198	1,290	1,302,760	1,456,906
French	312	323	10,624	14,132
German	124	152	126,364	170,806
Spanish	24	22	40,104	36,762
Belgian	72	68	197,616	200,394
Portuguese	29	40	634	728
American	11	9	6,634	6,693
Norwegian	—	4	—	4,068
Liberian	—	8	—	42
Total	1,770	1,916	1,684,736	1,890,531

68. The following table shows the total number of vessels entered and cleared for five years 1903-1907:—

Year.						Number entered and cleared.
1903	...	...	...	...	...	1,340
1904	...	...	...	...	...	1,334
1905	...	...	...	...	...	1,735
1906	...	...	...	...	...	1,770
1907	...	...	...	...	...	1,916

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

69. The progress made in the agricultural development of the country has necessarily been slow, but there are indications that the results achieved on the experimental farm established at the headquarters of the Karene district and conducted under the personal supervision of the District Commissioner or his assistant have greatly impressed the chiefs in that district, and are affecting to some extent the primitive methods of cultivation in vogue among the people. The example set by the people in the Karene district, and the establishment of other experimental farms on similar lines at the headquarters of some of the other districts, will, it is hoped, in time cause a general improvement in agricultural methods throughout the Protectorate.

70. During the year under review attention has been directed to the cultivation of rubber, ginger, and fibres.

Ginger.—Hitherto the cultivation of this product has been confined to the Colony, but the introduction of improved methods of preparation resulting in better prices being obtained in the European markets, and the establishment of a Farmers' Association, have done much to increase the output of this article, and its cultivation has now extended to the Ronietta district of the Protectorate. The crop which was obtained in that district proved to be of better quality than that grown in the Colony.

Fibres.—Experiments were carried out under Government supervision in the cultivation of the indigenous Kowe fibre and of the Okra (*Hibiscus esculentus*). Samples of the latter fibre were forwarded to the Imperial Institute for examination and report.

Ramie.—Under the auspices of the British West African Produce Company the cultivation of this plant is being carried on on a somewhat comparatively extensive scale in the Protectorate, and plantations have been established at Kangahun, Mabang, and Mano. The plants are growing well and are promising.

III.—LEGISLATION.

71. Thirty-six Ordinances were passed in 1907, of which 19 were amending Ordinances, 3 consolidating, 1 continuing, 3 repeal, and 10 were new Ordinances.

72. As a preliminary measure to the revision of the Laws of the Colony, two important repealing Ordinances were passed in 1907—Ordinances Nos. 14 and 32 of 1907, respectively, which repeal 236 obsolete or spent Ordinances. On the whole 257 Ordinances were repealed, but the provisions of some of them are embodied in the consolidating and amending Ordinances.

Of the consolidating Ordinances the two most important are "The Police Ordinance, 1907" (No. 18 of 1907), and the "Coroners Ordinance, 1907" (No. 33 of 1907).

Number 11 of 1907—The Prevention of Corruption Ordinance, 1907—was passed reproducing Chapter 34 of the Imperial Statutes 6 Edward VII., with some amendments and proceedings in prosecution under the Ordinance cannot now be instituted without the consent of the Attorney-General.

Other new and important enactments are:—

"The Mohammedan Education Ordinance, 1907" (No. 2 of 1907).

"The Shipping Casualties, Wrecks, and Salvage Ordinance, 1907" (No. 15 of 1907).

"The Foreign Judgments Extension Ordinance, 1907" (No. 17 of 1907), which provides for the enforcement in the Colony and Protectorate of Judgments or Decrees issued in other British Possessions or Protectorates.

"The Circuit Court Bailiffs Ordinance" (No. 22 of 1907); and

"The Court Messengers Ordinance, 1907" (No. 31 of 1907).

IV.—EDUCATION.

73. The number of schools in the Colony is 83, distinguished as follows:—

Primary Education	...	...	...	75
Secondary	"	...	...	7
Higher	"	...	...	1

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

74. The schools belong principally to the several denominations. The following table shows how they are distributed and the number of pupils collectively attending them:—

Denomination.	Number of Schools.	Number of pupils on the Rolls.
Church of England	36	3,435
Wesleyan	20	2,648
United Methodist Free Church	9	767
Countess of Huntingdon	4	359
Roman Catholic	3	410
Other Schools	3	174
		7,793

75. The number on the roll, as shown above, was, 7,793, while the average attendance was only 5,547. As compared with 1906 these figures show a decrease of 369 in the roll number and of 422 in the average attendance. The attendances for the past year are the lowest for the last ten years.

76. The reason assigned for this serious decline in the roll number and in the number of attendances at school is that the parents of the school children leave Freetown for the Protectorate, where there are greater opportunities for making money by trading. This migration of traders into the Protectorate does, no doubt, affect the case to a certain extent, but as in the majority of cases the traders leave their children behind in Freetown to be educated, the reason given does not satisfactorily account for the decrease. Probably the real cause is that education in Sierra Leone is not compulsory.

77. It must be remembered that while the traders emigrate to the Protectorate the labourers immigrate to the Colony, and many of them marry and settle here, so that the emigration of the traders would not affect the attendances to such a marked degree as they do, were education compulsory in Sierra Leone.

78. As regards the decrease in the number of attendances there are other reasons which must also be taken into account. Among the poorer classes of the community the children are kept at home for several days during the week to assist their parents in their work. In many other cases the parents are unable to regularly provide the small weekly fee of 1*d.* charged by the school in respect of each pupil.

79. Education does not appear to be making progress in Sierra Leone, and one has not to look far for the causes. In addition to the reasons mentioned above, there exists a want of competent teachers. The salaries given to teachers are so

small that the services of qualified men cannot be obtained, the class of men who would make good teachers preferring employment in the Government Service and in the mercantile establishments. The results are consequently poor, and education among the poorer classes is going by easy stages from bad to worse.

80. The subjects taught in the Elementary Schools are reading, writing, and arithmetic. There are three optional subjects, geography, English history, and grammar, but as there were in all only 104 passes for the year, these subjects may be neglected, especially as only two or three schools presented pupils in English history. Geography was more general, but only the definitions appear to have been taken, and in grammar the children more often than not failed to show an intelligent grasp of the subject.

81. The percentage of proficient pupils to the number of pupils examined in the Standards (of which there are seven) is 52·7, and is 1 less than that of the last examination. 2,836 pupils were presented for examination and 1,497 were passed as proficient.

82. The total number of pupils taught in the Standards was 3,445, the number examined being 82·3 per cent. of the number taught. The number of proficients, 1,497, is 43·4 per cent. of the number of pupils taught.

83. The following table will show that as the subjects become more difficult the results attained are proportionally more unsatisfactory:—

—	Examined.	Passes.	Percentages.
Standards 1 and 2 ...	1,814	1,123	61·8
" 3 and 4 ...	796	321	40·3
" 5, 6, and 7 ...	226	53	23·4

The serious state of elementary education in Sierra Leone has been a matter of deep concern to the Heads of the various denominations and to those of the general community who have the future welfare of the people at heart, and during the year a memorial was presented by them to the Governor praying for the taking over by the Government of the Elementary Schools in the Colony. Such a course would undoubtedly involve very heavy expenditure, especially in its incipient stage, and the matter is now engaging the attention of the Government.

It would be interesting to know the percentage of persons in the Colony who are able to read and write, as affording a further guide to the general state of education in Sierra Leone, but the information at present is not available.

84. The whole income from the schools amounts to £5,083 18s. 8d., of which the Government contributes £1,516 15s. 1d., or about three-tenths, in the form of grants-in-aid, while the school fees paid by the pupils amount to £1,015 7s. 10½d., or about one-fifth: the various denominational bodies by means of direct contributions from themselves and indirect contributions from their members, provide the balance £2,551 15s. 8½d., equal to about a half of the whole.

85. The figures quoted above were obtained from the report of the Inspector of Schools, and refer to the condition of affairs at the beginning of 1907. The returns given in the Blue Book are incomplete owing to the fact that the managers of some of the schools did not give the information asked for from them.

86. Protectorate.—Apart from the School for sons of Chiefs at Bo, there are 23 schools in the Protectorate with 956 pupils on the roll. Of these 19, with a roll number of 791 pupils, belong to the United Brethren in Christ Missions.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

87. As in the case of the Primary Schools, the Secondary Schools belong principally to religious denominations, as shown in the following table:—

	Schools.	Pupils.
Church of England ...	2 (1 girls')	263
Wesleyans	2 "	306
Roman Catholic	1 ...	160
United Brethren in Christ ...	1 ...	138
Private	1 ...	98
		965

The results obtained at these schools are good, and it is from them that clerks for the Government Service and mercantile establishments here are obtained.

A large proportion of such appointments in the other Colonies are also filled by men educated at these schools.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

88. The only establishment in the Colony which offers to those who can afford it the opportunities of obtaining a higher education is Fourah Bay College, which is under the control of the Church Missionary Society. It is affiliated to Durham University, and students at the college can proceed to degrees in arts and theology.

Three scholarships of the value of £40 each per annum and others of a less amount are given.

At the close of 1907 there were 11 students at the college.

Up to 1907 Fourah Bay College was in receipt of a grant-in-aid of £500 from the Colonial Government for the training of teachers for the Primary Schools, but the grant was discontinued owing to the fact that the results were not commensurate with the expenditure.

Technical School.

89. This school is known as the Diocesan Technical School, but pupils from other denominations are allowed to attend.

The instruction given at the school is, as its name implies, of a purely technical character, and the school fills a very important position in the scheme of education of the Colony.

In the mornings, lectures are given in general building details, plane and solid geometry, and model drawing, as well as in theoretical mechanics, elementary trigonometry, and kindred subjects. In the afternoons practical instruction is given in the workshop.

The average number of the pupils in the school during 1907 was 26.5, showing a slight increase on previous years.

Students who have passed through a course of studies at this school are often taken on in the Railway and Public Works Department, and a few have obtained very good appointments in the Protectorate Roads Department.

Mohammedan Schools.

90. There are four Mohammedan Schools in Freetown for the education of the children of the Mohammedan section of the community. The number on the roll during 1907 was 596 as compared with 733 in 1906, and the average attendance was 454 as compared with 471 in 1906. It will be observed that though the number on the roll was less for 1907 than for 1906 the average attendance was much better.

It is stated that the decrease during 1907 was due partly to pupils having passed the school age and leaving to go to work, and partly to withdrawals by the parents of the children owing to their dissatisfaction with the teachers of one of the schools. The teachers have since been changed and the school in question is gradually regaining its former strength.

One result of these schools is that a few years ago there were only two Mohammedans able to fill the position of clerks: now there are about a dozen Mohammedan clerks in the Civil Service and mercantile establishments.

The schools have up to the present suffered owing to the fact that the teaching staff is composed wholly of Christians. To remove this objection a select number of the most intelligent and promising Mohammedan youths are being trained as teachers for their schools. It is hoped that when these youths will have completed their course of training and taken charge of the schools greater confidence will be established, and as a necessary consequence, the attendance considerably increased.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

The number of Mohammedans in the Colony in 1901 was 9,504: most of these resided in Freetown, and there is every reason to believe that their number has very considerably increased since then.

School for the Sons and Nominees of Chiefs at Bo.

91. This school, which is conducted under the auspices of the Government, has for its object the training of those boys who will eventually be chiefs in their own countries, and continues to give promise of excellent results in the future.

It was opened in March, 1906, with 18 pupils, with a staff of the Principal (a European) and two Native Pupil Teachers. At the end of the year the pupils numbered 83 and the staff had been increased by two European Teachers, three Pupil Teachers, and one Interpreter (Konnoh).

The pupils, who numbered 85 at the close of 1907, are principally Mendis and Timinis, with a few representatives of the other tribes of the Protectorate.

There was a natural disinclination on the part of those chiefs in the Protectorate who are Mohammedans, to send their sons to the school, as they feared that an effort would be made to pervert their sons from the Mohammedan faith, but this difficulty was met by appointing an Advisory Board composed of the leading Mohammedans in the Colony, who visit the school three times a year. The reports of the Board soon dispelled these fears, and have in a great measure overcome the prejudices of the chiefs.

The native teachers and pupils live in a village consisting of native houses, and the boys are encouraged to maintain as far as is possible the conditions of life obtaining in their own homes.

A garden is attached to each house, the front portion being devoted to flowers—an entirely new departure for the boys, as no native cultivates flowers—and the back portion to economic products.

No religious instruction is given in the school; the subjects taught are chemistry, plant life, agriculture, physiology, hygiene, geography, and arithmetic.

Reading is now also taught, but the boys are principally taught to develop their powers of observation and reasoning, and the results obtained have been extraordinary and very gratifying.

The school has aroused some interest in the other West African Colonies, and it is hoped and expected that lasting good will result from the excellent training given to the pupils.

The amount received in fees during 1907 amounted to £769, and the expenditure to £3,037. The fee for each pupil is £10 per annum.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

COLONIAL HOSPITAL.

92. The Colonial Hospital, Freetown, contains five wards. It is situated near the sea adjoining a very noisy, bi-weekly, open-air market, and the abbatoir. The accommodation is limited, and though the arrangements have been improved upon as much as was possible without actually rebuilding the hospital, it is felt that the best results cannot and will not be obtained until the institution is removed to another and better site, with a building more in keeping with the requirements of up-to-date medicine.

93. There were 48 patients remaining in hospital at the close of 1906. The admissions during 1907 numbered 1,051, bringing the total number of in-patients up to 1,099. Of these, 670 were cured, 225 were discharged relieved, 79 were discharged not relieved, and 94 died, leaving 31 patients under treatment at the close of 1907. In connection with this seemingly high mortality it would be well to point out that a very large proportion of deaths should not in justice be set against the hospital records, as there is an unfortunate tendency on the part of the public to bring cases in a moribund condition to the hospital.

94. The number of out-patients treated at the institution during the year was 18,008 as compared with 15,257 in 1906. These figures as they stand are rather deceptive: the apparent increase in number compared with 1906 is due to the fact that the cases attending in the morning for re-dressing and subsequent treatment have been recorded for the first time in the statistics for 1907.

There is a marked reduction in the number of Europeans (both official and non-official) treated, and also a reduction in the numbers of most of the other classes treated.

NURSING HOME.

95. This is a building in the town in the neighbourhood of the public offices, originally a private house. Its situation in the town and its proximity to the railway make the site very undesirable for an institution of this nature, where segregation from malaria and other insect-borne diseases as well as peace and quiet are essential qualifications.

96. At the close of 1906 there was one case remaining in the Nursing Home and there were 65 admissions during the year, making a total of 66 cases treated in 1907 compared with 62 in the previous year.

There were 4 deaths during the year: 1 from ptomaine poisoning, 1 from septic pneumonia, and 2 from black-water fever.

97. The following shows the classes of the community from which the patients were derived:—

Government employees ...	27
Mercantile „ ...	25
Clerical ...	2
Military ...	4
Shipping ...	6
Cable Company ...	2
	66

Of the Government employees 24 belonged to the Railway Department: the exposure to climatic and solar risks to which the employees of that Department are liable contributes largely towards the high rate of sickness among them.

Of the 66 patients treated 27 were cases of malarial fever.

98. The whole of the expenditure on the Home is defrayed in the first instance by the Government. A portion of this expenditure is subsequently recovered by means of voluntary contributions and from patients' fees. The expenditure during the year was £830, and the revenue derived from subscriptions and fees amounted to £359.

99. As an institution for the reception and treatment of sick Europeans it has proved a great blessing.

Arrangements have been made by which a bungalow at Hill Station is available for use as a sanatorium for official convalescents from the Nursing Home and the Protectorate.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

100. At the close of 1906 there were 124 patients under treatment in this institution; 23 fresh cases were admitted, making the total number of patients under treatment for the year under review 147.

101. Twenty deaths occurred during 1907; this was half of the number of deaths which took place in 1906. The decrease in the death-rate is attributed by the Principal Medical Officer to the rebuilding of the male wing of the asylum. An outbreak of beri-beri occurred in the old building, and 9 deaths resulted from the disease in 1906. In 1907 only 4 deaths were caused by beri-beri.

VARIOUS.

102. There are also a female incurable hospital, a lazaretto, and a small-pox hospital.

There were 20 cases of small-pox admitted into the hospital during the year. One death occurred. There is accommodation for about 100 patients.

103. In the Colonial Hospital, Sherbro, 212 patients were admitted during the year as compared with 240 in 1906.

There is also a small-pox hospital in Bonthe.

104. There is a hospital and dispensary at the headquarters of each of the five Protectorate districts, and there are also hospitals at Bo and Daru.

SAVINGS BANK.

105. The deposits during the year amounted to £49,479 6s. 10d. compared with £40,080 in 1906. The withdrawals amounted to £40,383 0s. 9½d. compared with £34,975 in 1906, and the total amount due to depositors, exclusive of interest, at the end of the year 1907 was £79,406 4s. 8d. as compared with £68,807 at the end of 1906.

106. The number of depositors at the close of the year was 4,893, showing a reduction of 808 compared with the figures for 1906. This reduction is due to the elimination in 1907 of 1,099 accounts representing unclaimed deposits amounting to £369, which, in accordance with the law, were closed, and the amounts transferred to General Revenue.

107. In order to overcome the inconvenience formerly experienced by absentee depositors in the withdrawal of money from their accounts in the Savings Bank, a system of cheques was instituted during the year, and 43 cheque books were issued to literate depositors. This system has met a long-felt want, as it affords depositors facilities for withdrawing money from the bank without having to go through the legal formalities formerly required, and which, in such cases where the depositor was carrying on his business in a place far removed from a civilized centre, it was almost impossible for him to conform to.

108. In addition to the Head Office in Freetown, there are branch banks at Sherbro and Waterloo in the Colony, and at each of the district headquarters in the Protectorate.

The sum of £10,996 was invested during the year, bringing the total investments up to £77,662.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

POLICE.

109. The strength of the force at the beginning of the year was the Commissioner, a European inspector, and 239 non-commissioned officers and men.

110. During the year the force was increased by 6 men, but no increase in expenditure resulted, as the extra cost of the 6 additional men was met by a re-adjustment of the various classes of constables and the institution of a class of probationers. This increase was made so as to enable the men in the force to be more regular in their attendances at the school.

111. The police are only employed in the Colony of Sierra Leone, the police work in the Protectorate being performed by a force of 396 Court messengers, who are armed with double-barrelled guns and buck-shot ammunition.

112. The police are armed with the Snider rifle and buckshot ammunition, but in Freetown arms are only carried by the bank guard and by money and other escorts and for drill purposes.

113. Included in the strength of the force is a detective branch consisting of 1 sergeant and 4 constables. These four men are permanently employed as detectives, and they have the additional help of constables in plain clothes when necessary.

114. Up to the end of 1907 between 600 and 700 sets of finger prints had been classified and arranged and a considerable number of identifications have been made under the system. Up to the present the system has not been extended to the Protectorate except in so far that finger prints of all prisoners convicted in the Courts of the Protectorate and sentenced to over six months' imprisonment are taken in the Freetown Prison, where the prisoners are sent to serve their sentences.

115. The cost of the force for the year amounted to £8,598 11s. 11d.

116. The amount expended on the force of Court messengers who police the Protectorate amounted to £4,141 0s. 4d.

PRISONS.

117. The number of prisoners committed for safe custody in the prisons of the Colony during the year was 810 males and 22 females, against 818 males and 22 females committed during 1906. The daily average number was 230 as compared with 209 for the previous year.

118. The short-sentence male prisoners were employed in breaking stones, cleaning Government lands, and general labouring and sanitary work in connection with the Government Departments, whilst those sentenced to three years and upwards were employed inside the prison in tailoring, shoe-making, carpentry, basket-making, and the making of concrete culverts for the Freetown drainage scheme. The female prisoners were employed in washing and sewing.

119. The conduct of the prisoners has on the whole been good, their being no offences committed beyond trivial breaches of prison discipline.

120. The health of the prisoners has also on the whole been good: there were no epidemics.

121. The amount realized from sales of articles made by the Prison Manufacturing Department was £946 18s. 6d., whilst £897 16s. 11d. was expended in the purchase of materials for

conversion by the prisoners into manufactured goods. The value of the stock on hand, December, 1907, was £1,151 8s. 11d.

122. During the year 17 prisoners earned their release on licence by good conduct and industry.

123. Divine service is regularly held each Sunday by a Minister of the Church of England. Mohammedan prisoners are allowed to hold their religious service every Friday afternoon.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

124. There was a marked increase in crime in the Colony and Protectorate in 1907 as compared with 1906, and this extends to the various forms of crime though in different degrees. The total number of offences reported during the year was 2,224 as compared with 2,162 in 1906. Of these, 560 were offences against the person, while the remainder were offences against property, other than larceny, and other offences.

125. The number of summary convictions in the Courts of the Colony and Protectorate was 1,501 as compared with 1,348 in 1906. Of these, 293 were for offences against the person, 555 for larceny, 459 for offences against Revenue Acts, &c., and the remainder for other minor offences.

126. The number of indictable offences tried in the Superior Courts of the Colony and Protectorate during the year amounted to 179, an increase of 4 over the figures for the previous year.

127. The following table shows the number of cases tried, the offences for which they were tried, and how the cases were disposed of:—

Nature of Indictment.	Number tried.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Fell through.	Prisoner found insane.
Murder	22	13	6	1	2
Manslaughter	4	4	—	—	—
Murder of wife, reputed wife, or concubine.	1	1	—	—	—
Rape	8	6	2	—	—
Other offences against the person, including slave dealing.	43	27	14	2	—
Malicious injuries to property ...	7	3	3	1	—
Robbery with violence	10	9	1	—	—
Larceny	60	47	6	7	—
Other offences against property ...	8	4	3	1	—
Miscellaneous offences	16	12	4	—	—
Total	179	126	39	12	2

Of the murder cases tried, 17 were tried by the Circuit Court: the majority of these were murders committed in connection with the Human Leopard Society.

128. The general increase in crime which has taken place during the year is probably due in a great measure to the influx into Freetown of large numbers of natives of the Protectorate in search of employment. A large number of these are unable to obtain regular employment, and in time drift into the ranks of the criminal class. Greater activity on the part of the police in bringing offenders to justice would also account for some of the increase in the number of offences reported.

129. Distress is practically unknown in the Colony and Protectorate, and therefore its influence on crime cannot be estimated.

130. It will be readily understood that in a country of which the climate is such that the needs of the inhabitants are few and easily satisfied, and in which the standard of living is not high, imprisonment has not that deterrent effect upon criminals that it has in other countries. To this must be added the unfortunate fact that the attitude of the lower class of people in general towards crime leaves a good deal to be desired.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

131. The estimated population of the Colony, exclusive of the Protectorate, at the close of 1907 was 76,929. The number of deaths registered was 1,192, giving a death-rate of 15·49 per thousand. The number of births registered was 935, a birth-rate of 12·15 per thousand. The above figures are not, however, reliable, as registration outside Freetown is not compulsory.

In Freetown, where registration is compulsory, the estimated population at the end of 1907 was 37,280: the total number of deaths was 816, and of births 583, giving a death-rate for Freetown of 21 per thousand and a birth-rate of 15 per thousand.

From the figures quoted the birth-rate is a fraction higher than that for 1906, and the death-rate, which showed a considerable fall in 1906, was still lower in 1907, and is the lowest on record for the last six years.

132. The population of the whole Colony in 1901, the date of the last census, consisted of 41,806 males and 34,799 females: of this number, 19,230 males and 15,233 females were

resident in Freetown. The disproportion in the number of males over females is probably due to the influx of labourers from the Protectorate in search of work.

The male population of the peninsula, as distinct from the rest of the Colony, in 1901 exceeded the female by nearly 6,000 persons. From birth up to the age of ten years the proportion of males to females was about the same, viz., 5,622 males to 5,541 females. The increase of males over females occurs between the ages of eleven years and fifty: to 27,897 males there are but 20,971 females. From fifty-one and upwards there is a preponderance of females, viz., 4,015 females to 3,329 males.

133. The estimated population of the Protectorate, based on the average number of persons occupying each house on which house tax is paid, is 1,171,000. This estimate is purely conjectural, as the number of persons living in a house varies according to the tribe, and, in the present incomplete state of house registration in the Protectorate, it is doubtful whether the number of houses on which tax is paid represents the number of houses actually in existence. No census has been taken in the Protectorate: births, deaths, and marriages are not registered, and there is no record of emigration and immigration.

134. The diseases responsible for the largest proportion of deaths are:—

Malarial fevers ...	...	...	...	202
Respiratory system ...	...	...	...	161
Digestive system ...	...	...	...	95
Nervous system ...	...	...	...	58
Circulatory system ...	...	...	...	42
Urinary system ...	...	...	...	24

It will be seen that malarial fevers take the first place, and this fact may cause some surprise to those who expect to find that the native, on the principle of natural selection, is immune from such complaints. As a matter of fact, up to a certain age, the native children are very subject to the evil effect of, and are the main storehouse of, the malaria germ, and it is only the adult native, taken as a class, who is comparatively immune from infection by the anopheles mosquito.

The number of deaths caused by diseases of the respiratory system is also high and is probably due to the fact that the native in adopting European clothing does so very often more for the sake of effect than for the sake of utility; the aborigine has no superfluity of clothes, and should the one garment he wears get wet he takes it off and dries it. But this is not done by natives wearing European clothes, and they are affected by chills in a similar manner to any person whose natural resistance is lowered by using unnecessary clothing.

135. Of the total number of deaths registered in Freetown (816) 452 were males and 364 females, and of the total number,

271 or 33 per cent., were under the age of five years. The total number of deaths of children under one year of age amounted to 210, showing a death-rate of 357 per thousand births, as compared with the infant mortality in England of 132 per thousand in 1906. This death-rate, though still very high as compared with that England, is nevertheless the lowest for the past seven years.

The reasons assigned for this high death-rate among children are: (1) malaria, (2) carelessness in the management of child birth, (3) insanitary surroundings, and (4) ignorance as to feeding, clothing, and cleanliness of children: but more information is necessary as to the actual age at which the deaths take place so that the principal causes may be located and combated. There is no doubt that different causes operate at different times of a child's life, and until the statistics are compiled with a view of specifying the prominent evils causing death, the causes can only be a matter of conjecture. In the absence of data, it is assumed that the last is the most prolific cause of death. It should also be the most easily remedied. In the meantime, this high death-rate is a matter of serious import to the natives of Sierra Leone, as, owing to the fact that the deaths are in excess of the births, the descendants of the original people who first settled in the Colony are gradually dying out. The more intelligent natives realize this, and also that unscientific midwifery plays a prominent part in the high death-rate of children. The Government some years ago opened a special midwifery ward at the Colonial Hospital to remedy this evil, but the effect it has had on the mass of the people has been inappreciable owing to the ignorant conservatism of the people, which has, so far, prevented them from enjoying to the full the benefits of the institution.

136. In the year under review there has been a decided decrease in the number of deaths due to diseases of the digestive system, and this is attributed to the better supply of drinking water which Freetown now enjoys. Public stand-pipes have been placed all over the town and the natives, who have always been accustomed to drink impure river water or well water which was polluted by infiltration from adjoining cess-pits, are now using the wholesome water obtained from the stand-pipes.

137 The total number of deaths which occurred among the European residents in the Colony during the year was 11: there were also 2 non-resident cases landed from vessels. Of the 11 deaths, 5 were military, 2 were officials, 2 were missionaries, and 2 were merchants.

The number of Europeans in Freetown in 1907 was estimated to be 550, but this is a very rough estimate, and any inferences based on those figures must necessarily be speculative. The health of the officials working in Freetown has improved in a very marked degree owing to residence at Hill

Station, where for the past three years a large number of the European officials on duty at headquarters have resided.

138. In spite of the fact that Bonthe is on a mud-bank and beset with every necessary condition for the propagation of the more serious forms of known tropical disease, the health of the 4 officials during the year was very good, none of them being on the sick list. There were 25 other Europeans resident in the district during the year. Among these there was 1 death, attributed to heat apoplexy. Owing to the frequent use of quinine and of the mosquito-net, the cases of fever were neither so frequent nor so serious as in former years.

139. Small-pox is an annually recurrent disease which usually makes its appearance in the dry season. Vaccination has been, and is being, carried out on an extensive scale in the Colony and Protectorate, though in a lesser degree in the Protectorate, and this should in time have the effect of either exterminating the disease or of considerably reducing its ravages.

During the year 20 cases of small-pox were reported: of these, 1 died.

140. Though only 2 cases of trypanosomiasis were admitted into the hospital during the year, it is nevertheless of much more frequent occurrence in the Colony and Protectorate than was the case a few years back. It is now known that the tsetse fly (*Glossina palpalis*) is the means by which trypanosomiasis (the last stage of which is sleeping sickness) is conveyed to the human system, and this fly is found in nearly all parts of the Colony and Protectorate.

Considerable research work is done in this direction by the military authorities, and a specially-trained member of the Royal Army Medical Corps regularly prosecutes scientific enquiries into the subject. There is a well fitted-up laboratory where most interesting experiments are conducted with a view to assisting in the discovery of a cure for the disease. The importance of the question not only to Sierra Leone, but to the whole of Central and West Africa, is so great as to call for no comment in this report. As regards Sierra Leone, however, it may be safely said that were a means of inoculation against infection by the tsetse fly discovered, the speedy introduction of animal transport which would follow would meet many of the difficulties now experienced in the development of the Protectorate.

141. The sanitation of Freetown is under the control of the City Council and under the immediate supervision of the Principal Medical Officer, who is, *ex officio*, Medical Officer of Health.

The scavenging of the town was, prior to 1907, carried out by the Corporation, but in 1907 a change was made and the

work is now done by contract. The departure from the former system has not proved satisfactory.

142. The disposal of excreta is still one of the most important and at the same time one of the most difficult questions to deal with in the sanitation of Freetown. The cess-pit system still obtains, and as the nature of the soil allows the liquid contents of these pits to filter out of the pits they are never properly cleaned out. The result is that the air in Freetown is contaminated with the noxious gases emanating from the 3,000 cess-pits existing there, and the health of the whole community is consequently seriously affected.

The matter has been for some time engaging the serious attention of the Government, but up to the present none of the various suggestions to remedy the evil have taken definite shape.

The facilities presented by the natural slope of the ground towards the harbour would seem to overcome the more serious obstacles to a water-borne system of sewage disposal, but such a system would be expensive, and no proposal has yet been made to give effect to it.

143. Special sanitary measures required to deal with malaria were carried out as usual during the year. The actual expenditure incurred under this head by the City Council during the year amounted to £1,137 12s. 7d.

144. Hill Station, with its easy access to Freetown by railway, is undoubtedly the finest and most successful anti-malarial measure ever carried out by any West African Colony, and continues to maintain its good reputation for its almost complete freedom from fever, and from mosquitoes and other insect pests.

There is a special sanitary gang attached to Hill Station, part of whose work is to clear the bush in the immediate vicinity of the bungalows. This clearing of the bush is essential to good health, as the vegetation prevents the rapid evaporation of water from the hidden "pot holes" in the syenite rocks which abound at the station, and in which mosquitoes would breed freely.

Of the 11 cases of illness which occurred among the residents of Hill Station during the year 1907, only 3 can be attributed to climatic causes, the origin of which could not be specifically traced to Hill Station.

Of the 14 European ladies who resided at Hill Station at various times during the year none suffered from any serious illness. All seemed to enjoy excellent health and an immunity from tropical disease, which, by reason of their continuous residence, apart from likely infection, enhances considerably the utility of Hill Station as a European settlement.

145. Bonthe.—The sanitation of Bonthe is under the supervision of the Sherbro Municipal Board. The natural water

supply from shallow wells within a few feet of shallow cess-pools is dangerous to a degree. Two public water-tanks for the storage of rain-water were erected and have been found very useful.

146. Protectorate.—A great impetus has been given to the sanitation of towns in the Protectorate by the scheme adopted by the Government of giving each chief who had the cleanest town in his chiefdom a very handsome presentation sword (or its money equivalent—£5). The possession of these swords has given the greatest pleasure, and the desire of other chiefs to earn the reward has already incited them to increase their efforts to improve the sanitary condition of their towns.

CLIMATE.

147. The climate of Sierra Leone is unhealthy, and, generally speaking, may be said to be unsuitable for Europeans. Owing to the more favourable conditions under which life is now possible, the effects of the climate are not so great as was formerly the case. The knowledge that malarial fever is conveyed by means of the anopheles mosquito and the adoption of precautions against the bites of those insects, coupled with a more careful mode of living on the part of the European community have done much to minimise the baneful effects of the climate. The conditions as to leave under which European officials serve also materially affect the question of climate as far as that class of resident officials is concerned.

There are only two seasons, the wet and the dry: the former commencing in May and lasting until October.

148. The rainfall in Freetown during 1907 amounted to 153·13, which is 18·13 inches less than the average for the last five years. The heaviest rainfall for any one day occurred on the 28th May and registered 9·64 inches.

Rain fell on 160 days during the year, the average for the previous five years being 162·2. Rain fell in ten months out of the year as compared with eleven in the previous five years (except 1905, 10 months), but very little rain falls in January, February, March, April, and December.

The wettest months are July and August, the averages for those months being 42·01 and 40·59 for the last five years.

As might be expected, the rainfall diminishes the further the point of reference is from the coast, but even in the north of the Protectorate the average annual rainfall is about 100 inches.

There were 123 thunderstorms during 1907, the average for the five years previous being 127·6. They usually occur at the beginning and end of the rains, and are often accompanied by a very strong wind. They do not last long and seldom do much damage.

The following table shows the average number of thunderstorms which have occurred during the last five years in the months in which they usually occur:—

May	...	...	...	19·8
June	...	...	...	19·2
July	...	...	...	10·4
August	...	...	...	3·8
September	...	...	...	12·6
October	...	...	...	20·4
November	...	...	...	16·2

TEMPERATURE.

149. The average daily temperature is less in the middle of the rains than at any other time of the year, though the daily range of temperature is least at that time, varying from 5 to 10 degrees, and coinciding with the maximum humidity of the air. In July and August (the months in which most rain falls) the average minimum temperature for the last five years was 72·06 and 71·74 degrees, respectively, while the average maximum temperature for those months during the same period was 83·96 and 83·14, respectively.

The highest temperatures are experienced in March and April, the average minimum during those months for the last five years being 75·1 and 75·08 degrees, and the average maximum 91·44 and 90·72, respectively.

The coldest mornings are experienced in December and January, when the harmattan blows, the temperature going down as low as 66. The daily range of temperature at this period also increases, the maximum (about 28 degrees) being reached in January.

The minimum humidity is reached at the end of March or the beginning of April, a good deal of the moisture of the air being absorbed by the dry harmattan wind.

150. The variations in barometrical pressure are so slight in Sierra Leone as only to be of interest to persons especially interested in the subject. The mean monthly pressure varied in 1907 between 29·66 and 29·81.

The prevailing wind during the dry season (November to the end of March) is from the north-east, while during the rainy season it is from the south-west.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

151. The total revenue collected at the Post Office and Savings Bank Department for the year amounted to £10,705 14s. 7d., of which £1,939 5s. 8d. was for Customs duty on parcel mails. It also includes a sum of £2,398 9s. 0d., being interest received on investments of savings bank monies.

Taking the same factors into consideration for 1906 as for 1907, the increase for the year under review amounts to £899 13s. 8d.

The expenditure, including a sum of £1,503 6s. 6d., interest due to savings bank depositors, amounted to £9,792 3s. 6d. as compared with £9,042 14s. 10d. in 1906.

152. The total number of postal articles and parcels handled during the year amounted to 1,256,859, made up as follows:—

Letters	...	...	...	810,834
Postcards	...	...	...	154,437
Newspapers and Books	...	...	...	260,677
Total				1,225,948
Parcels	...	...	...	30,911
				1,256,859

The total number of postal articles and parcels handled in 1906 was 1,124,628, showing an increase in 1907 of 132,231.

The increase is due principally to the purely postal articles (that is exclusive of parcels), the increase of those articles during 1907 being 127,492 over the figures for 1906.

Of the 1,225,948 postal articles handled no less than 133,787, or 11,994 more than in 1906, passed through the Registration Branch.

153. The total amount of cash which passed directly through the Department in 1907 amounted to £225,612 9s. 2d. as compared with £188,508 14s. 6d. in 1906.

The above figures not only show that the work of the postal department has increased very considerably during the year under review, but they are also indicative of the increased business transactions of the Colony generally.

154. Money Orders numbering 13,471, of the value of £116,154 14s. 0d., were paid during the year. Of these, 4,955, of the value of £32,984 17s. 5d., were issued within the Colony and 2,044, of the value of £10,200 6s. 1d., were received from beyond the limits of the Colony. Of the 2,044 orders received from abroad, 309, representing a value of £2,152 17s. 3d., came from the United Kingdom.

There were 4,181 Orders, valued at £27,617 2s. 6d., sent to the United Kingdom, and 667, valued at £4,459 1s. 9d., sent to the other countries and to the West African Colonies.

155. There were 30,686 Postal Orders issued and paid during the year, of the value of £18,540 18s. 7d., as against 21,706, of the value of £11,255 2s. 7d., in 1906.

Orders numbering 20,902, of the value of £12,345 0s. 3d., were sold as compared with 15,973, of the value of £8,088 16s. 6d., in 1906, and 9,786 Orders, of the value of £6,195 18s. 4d., were paid as compared with 5,733, of the value of £3,166 6s. 1d., in 1906.

That the facilities afforded by the Post Office for the circulation of money are being taken advantage of by the people of Sierra Leone is evident from the above figures. The cause of the expansion of business in the postal as well as in every other department in the Colony can be directly traced to the development of the resources of the Protectorate by the railway and the roads which have been constructed as feeders thereto.

156. Telegraphic communication with Europe and other parts of the world is maintained by means of the African Direct Telegraph Company's lines.

The rate per word between Freetown and the United Kingdom is 3s. 6d.

The whole of the inland telegraph service is worked by the Railway Department. There are two lines: one extending the whole length of the railway, a distance of 226 miles, and another connecting Freetown with Bonthe, in the Sherbro district.

The latter line was completed in 1907. The total amount received in respect of telegrams during 1907 amounted to £678 as compared with £590 in 1906. The rate for telegrams is sixpence for 12 words and a halfpenny for each additional word.

TELEPHONES.

157. The only telephone line at present constructed belongs to the War Department, and was erected for military purposes. It is not available for public use. With the consent of the War Department connections with this line have been made between the Barracks at Tower Hill and the principal Government Offices and Government House.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

158. The Sierra Leone Battalion of the West African Frontier Force is a purely military force under the administration of, and paid for by, the Colonial Government.

The cost of the battalion amounted in 1907 to £22,889 16s. 10d.

The amount expended from Imperial Funds for the maintenance of Imperial troops quartered in the command in 1907 was £133,601 16s. 5d. as compared with £139,606 in 1906.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

STATE OF RAILWAYS AND ROADS.

159. The railway in Sierra Leone is a Government undertaking, and consists of the main line, which extends from the terminus in Freetown to Baiima, near to the Liberian frontier, a distance of 220 miles. The number of stations on the main line is 27.

There is in addition to this line one extending from the Freetown terminus to Hill Station (a distance of 6 miles) and called the Mountain Railway Section. The construction of this section formed part of the scheme for the establishment of residences at Hill Station for Government officials. The number of stations, including the Freetown terminus and flag stations, on the Mountain Railway Section is 9.

160. The gauge of the railway is 2 ft. 6 ins.

The quantity of rolling stock employed on the railway is as follows:—

Locomotive Engines	...	...	...	25
Coaching vehicles	...	...	...	59
Goods vehicles	...	...	...	140

The number of passengers carried on the railway during 1907 amounted to 284,856, an increase of 36,982 over the figures for the previous year. The amount received for passenger traffic was £18,655 as compared with £18,979 in 1906, a decrease of £324. The decrease is due to the fact that there is no longer the same necessity for the small Protectorate traders to travel to Freetown as there was before the large firms established branches on the upper section of the railway. The number of tickets taken for long journeys is therefore reduced, and this accounts for the decrease in the actual amount received irrespective of the fact that the number of tickets sold is greater.

The increase in the total number of tickets sold is attributed to the general development of the country and the growing popularity of the railway as a means of transport.

161. The amount received for the carriage of goods amounted in 1907 to £51,992 against £40,406 in 1906.

The amount of goods carried in 1907 was 29,868 tons, representing 4,098,265 ton miles as compared with 18,623 tons, representing 3,195,825 ton miles, in 1906. Ton mileage represents the tonnage multiplied by the mileage over which the tonnage is hauled.

The increase in 1907 was due to the high price paid for palm kernels and oil. This point is dealt with under the heading "Trade."

162. The original cost of construction of the railway, including subsidiary expenditure, was £1,014,731. The gross receipts for the year amounted to £74,266 as compared with £62,158 in 1906, and the net earnings amounted to £6,632.

163. The working expenses of the line compared with the previous year are as follows:—

	1907.			1906.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cost per open mile ...	298	5	10	245	13	7
„ Train mile ...	0	5	6·4	0	4	8·7
„ Vehicle mile ...	0	0	10·77	0	0	9·9

The increase in the working expenses of the year under review is due to the following causes:—

Increase of staff in the Railway Department.

The cost of the maintenance has been heavier owing to the increased haulage to and from the upper sections of the line.

The damage caused by the storm in September, 1907, to the bridges and permanent way.

Extensive repairs to the locomotives and rolling stock.

Heavier traffic expenses consequent on the increase of traffic hauled.

The quantity of coal consumed by the locomotives during the year was 2,510 tons, costing £4,079: the consumption per engine mile was 20·9 tons, and the cost per engine mile was 3·6*d.*

It may be stated that the mountain section is run at a loss—the loss during 1907 on that section being £1,708, but, as stated before, that part of the railway was not opened primarily as a commercial enterprise.

STATE OF ROADS.

164. There are in the Colony 156 miles of roads connecting Freetown with the various towns and villages in the peninsula.

165. In the Protectorate many of the roads which were under construction were completed during the year and handed over to the Railway Department, with the result that outlying districts have been brought into close touch with the railway. All of these new roads have been built as feeders to the railway and tap the principal palm-producing areas in that portion of the Protectorate through which it passes.

The most important of these roads is Bo to Mandu, 19 miles; Blama to Boagibu, 24 miles; Hangha to Panguma, 20 miles; Segbwema to Bandajuma, 26 miles (first 9 miles being first-class road); Pendembu to Kanre Lahun, 16 miles; Baiima (rail head) to Malema, 40 miles. There are also two tram lines, namely, from Baiima to Pendembu, 7 miles, and Boia towards Makump, 21 miles. The roads above mentioned are divided into first, third, and fifth -class roads.

A first-class road is cleared and grubbed for a width of 33 feet, having a properly-formed roadway 12 feet wide, ballasted where necessary, and a maximum grade of 1 in 12. Fifty-two miles of this class of road had been constructed up to the end of 1907.

A third-class road is practically the same as a first-class road as regards earthworks, with a maximum grade of 1 in 10. Length constructed, 42 miles.

A fifth-class road is a carefully located bush path cleared and grubbed to a width of 16 feet, with native-made bridges. Length constructed, 164 miles.

The construction of these roads has necessitated the building of a large number of bridges. Permanent bridges with concrete abutments and wing walls, with a superstructure 11 feet wide composed of steel girders and 6-inch timber planking, capable of bearing a central load of 10 tons, have been built where required on all the first-class roads.

A number of other bridges built of bush timber and of sufficient width to admit of a hammock passing over them, have also been constructed on the other roads.

Traction-engine transport is employed on the Bo-Mandu and the Blama-Boagibu roads; barrel-roller transport is worked on the Hangha-Tikonko road.

PUBLIC WORKS.

166. A new reservoir at Hill Station was constructed at the cost of £2,161 0s. 11d.

The Public Works Department was transferred from its position in Freetown to the site of the old Botanical Gardens, and the cost during 1907 of constructing offices, stores, workshops, &c., amounted to £3,094.

A very fine recreation ground was made just outside the town, containing a cycle track, cricket pitch, croquet lawn, and football ground: the total cost amounted to £1,237.

The amount expended during the year in the construction of barracks and quarters for the Sierra Leone Battalion, West African Frontier Force, at Moa River, was £8,459.

£7,524 was expended during the year in the construction of three new Customs sheds.

Two steel jetties are in course of construction at the Government Wharf, one of them being practically completed and the second just commenced.

These jetties are being erected to facilitate the loading and unloading of the lighters which ply between the steamers and the shore, and generally to expedite the receiving and shipping of cargo.

The jetties, which are situated just opposite the Customs sheds, will be 100 feet long, 31 feet broad, and will have a depth at their seaward ends of nearly 40 feet at low-water spring tides. Each jetty will be fitted with a 4-ton steam crane for loading and discharging lighters.

The amount expended in 1907 was £10,608. It is probable that both jetties will be in use early in 1909.

FUTURE PROSPECTS OF TRADE.

167. It is somewhat difficult accurately to prognosticate the immediate future prospects of Sierra Leone trade, as so much of that trade is dependent upon one article of production, viz., palm kernels. The fostering of other agricultural products for exportation is highly desirable in order to place the Colony in a position of greater economic safety than can possibly be the case when 66 per cent. of its exports is comprised of palm kernels.

During the greater part of 1907, palm kernels attained a higher price in the markets of Europe than has ever been previously reached, and chiefly owing to the severe competition between the mercantile firms in Sierra Leone; the inhabitants of the Protectorate participated to the full in the rise of prices, and consequently became possessed of more wealth than they had previously been accustomed to. A considerable portion of this wealth was disbursed in the purchase of additional supplies of spirits, tobacco, cotton goods, &c., and the statistics for 1907 consequently show considerable increases in the value of exports and imports. When prices began to fall in October, 1907, the natives had a sufficient reserve of capital to render them for a time independent, and, therefore, instead of selling their kernels on a falling market they stored them in the hope that prices would again rise. As a result, for several months during the first half of 1908, branch establishments of the European firms in the Protectorate obtained very small supplies of produce, and the native paid for his purchases in their stores with cash, and in lieu

of exports of produce, statistics show largely increased exports of specie for the first half of the current year.

The competition amongst the European firms during 1907 became more or less of a frenzied nature towards the latter end, and although the turnover of produce and merchandise formed a record, there is reason to believe that some of the firms barely defrayed expenses. By the high prices given, the natives with aboriginal ignorance of the vagaries of European markets, looked for a continuance of the high prices, and when prices fell over 50 per cent., they retained their produce, and trade was temporarily reduced to a low ebb.

Protectorate farmers are now beginning to realize, however, that the change in price is of a more permanent nature than they imagined, and the already impoverished trade of 1908 is gradually re-adjusting itself, although the volume of trade in 1908 will probably be less than in 1907, and the value of such trade considerably less.

Fortunately, money is now plentiful in Europe, and the continuance of a low bank rate ought to give a fillip to trade, which is in many instances largely conducted upon credit.

Provided no unforeseen circumstances occur to temporarily absorb large amounts of capital, such as war, financial panics, or catastrophes similar to the earthquake at San Francisco, cheap supplies of money may be anticipated for some time to come, especially after such a period of commercial activity as prevailed in 1907, and as a consequence markets for West African produce ought to assume a healthier tone, but a return to the high prices ruling last year need scarcely be anticipated.

The increased wealth enjoyed by the natives in 1907 may have turned their thoughts to the development of trade beyond the limits of their former primitive requirements by creating within them a desire for improved surroundings and increased indulgence in luxuries, and the present set-back in trade may be a blessing in disguise, as it may teach the mercantile community a lesson that they may not readily forget, so that both parties may indirectly be benefited.

So long as a fair price and a satisfactory demand for palm kernels exist there is good reason to believe that the trade of this Colony will continue to expand if conducted with reasonable care and intelligence, as roads, railways, and tram lines are opening up the interior and are releasing a certain number of men who have hitherto been employed as carriers and whose services will in the future be available for more productive forms of labour.

The immediate prospects of trade in the Colony are not particularly bright, but with a return to a natural and normal condition of affairs, and the exercise of ordinary commercial caution and foresight, an optimistic view of prospective trade may reasonably be entertained.

LABOUR.

168. Owing to the climate, which is unsuitable for Europeans, the country is not adapted for permanent settlement by them.

This subject is more fully dealt with under the heading "Climate."

There are no openings for white labour.

169. The average rate of wages is as follows:—

Artisans from 2*s.* to 5*s.* a day.

Domestic servants from 20*s.* to 40*s.* a month.

Ordinary labourers from 9*d.* to 1*s.* a day.

Amongst the natives the cost of living is very cheap. Their diet consists chiefly of rice and other locally-grown vegetables, which are plentiful and cheap, and of fish, which abound in the sea along the coast and in the lower reaches of the rivers.

The actual cost of living probably does not amount among the labouring class to more than 4*d.* per diem.

Amongst the educated classes of natives, who live more in the European style, the cost of living is, of course, greater, and probably amounts to from 2*s.* to 3*s.* a day.

The average cost of living amongst Europeans other than those who live in messes is about £15 to £20 a month.

OPENINGS FOR INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL.

170. The name of West Africa does not recall pleasant memories for many investors, and even now many trading projects which it fosters are looked upon with suspicion at their birth. Failures in the past were largely due, it is to be feared, to the selection by those at headquarters of persons but badly fitted in many cases for their responsibilities, so that between defective management and a bad climate, many projects were strangled before they reached the adolescent stage of their existence. A healthier tone now exists with regard to West African affairs, and the future gives promise of a much larger percentage of commercial successes than the past has been credited with.

Sierra Leone is primarily an agricultural country, and, so far as present knowledge goes, is likely to remain so. It is well known that iron exists in the interior, and it is believed that gold is also present, but no vein of either metal of sufficient richness has been discovered to make the labour involved in placing them upon the European markets a profitable undertaking.

The import and export trade of the Colony is almost entirely in the hands of eight or nine large European firms, having their principal places of business in Freetown and branches at

Sherbro island and various parts of the Protectorate. They import all classes of general merchandise and do a large trade with the country natives in spirits, unmanufactured tobacco, and cotton goods, sending to Europe in payment of such imports palm kernels, palm oil, rubber, ginger, &c. The aggregate trade of the Colony in 1907 amounted to £1,819,281. Competition is keen, especially on the coast, and there is little inducement for investments of fresh capital in this direction, although in the more remote parts of the Protectorate there are still opportunities for men of good business capacity, possessing initiative and a knowledge of West African trade. The railway extends for 220 miles into the Protectorate, which possesses an approximate population of 1,171,000. There are several very good waterways for the conveyance of produce to the coast, from whence it is conveyed to Europe almost exclusively by two lines of steamers—the Elder-Dempster line of Liverpool and the Woermann line of Hamburg. They possess a working agreement, and therefore the shipping trade is in the hands of a monopoly. West African trade has advanced rapidly during the past decade, and now that railways are being laid down in almost every European sphere of influence within reasonable distance of the coast, the inter-colonial and international trade between different places on the coast is increasing, and an opening exists for a service of coastal steamers of about three or four hundred tons register. Freetown would be an excellent place to make the headquarters of such a trade, as there is an excellent harbour with modern facilities for the working of cargo, and the water supply is the purest and best on the coast.

Around the coast of Sierra Leone the sea abounds with various varieties of fish of good quality, and a fish-curing establishment possessing a few steam trawlers ought to yield a good return to investors, as the natives subsist largely upon fish, and do a small trade by drying and salting fish for sale to the interior tribes and also for exportation to other parts of the coast. Locally-cured fish to please the native palate would command a large sale all along the coast, and also amongst innumerable tribes in proximity to the railway now running far into the interior.

The rice grown in Sierra Leone is of fine quality, and superior in nutritive properties to Indian rice. No real attempts have hitherto been made to grow rice in sufficiently large quantities for European markets, but enterprise and the introduction of rice-cleaning machinery would form the nucleus of an industry that might be made an expanding and profitable one, as Sierra Leone is geographically situated in a much more favourable position than India and Burma for placing its products on the markets of Europe.

Cattle are very scarce in the Protectorate, which has an area of about 28,110 square miles, and the breed is poor.

Enterprising cattle-breeders might find the propagation of a superior breed a remunerative occupation.

Manual labour is somewhat scarce in the Protectorate, due to the ravages of war and other causes, but now that the natives are being tutored in more peaceful and civilised modes of living and by the introduction of machinery and modern means of transport, this difficulty would be removed in course of time. Labour in the Protectorate can be obtained in many parts at from 8*d.* to 9*d.* per day, so that commercial exploits need not fail on account of the expense of labour.

It cannot be too strongly impressed upon capitalists and companies commencing new ventures in a country like this, that it is absolutely necessary to send out men who thoroughly know their business, as probably more promising schemes have been wrecked through incapacity than by any other cause.

Industries in West Africa must be established upon a scientific basis, and by the application of theory to practice the maximum of efficiency will be secured, greater economy in production will be obtained and, as a sequence, greater ability to sell in the open market in competition with others. These are some of the most cogent reasons why specialists should be selected for the important work of creating any new industries in West Africa, where the climate and other local conditions conduce to render the task of bringing projects to a successful culmination more arduous than in most other parts of the world.

SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE,

171. Owing to the absence of a moneyed class in Sierra Leone, there are not those fine distinctions in the social condition of the people which obtain in older and more civilized countries.

The people are roughly divided into two classes, a middle class and the labouring class.

The middle class is composed of professional men, shopkeepers, clerks, and artisans.

Only one or two of the natives can be described as wealthy. On the other hand, poverty as known in Europe is unknown here, and the middle class are as a whole well-to-do. Their incomes are sufficiently high to enable them to defray the actual cost of living and to set aside considerable savings.

The wants of the labouring class are few and easily satisfied. In a country where there are no extremes of climate very little clothing is required: and the cost of food is so small as to be easily obtained out of the daily wages earned. This, no doubt, tends to indolence on the part of this class of the people, as the amount earned by them for three days' work is quite sufficient to keep them for a week.

The number of unemployed is regulated more by the disinclination on the part of the labourers to obtain work than from any lack of work itself.

It will be inferred from the foregoing that the number of those who are actually destitute is limited. To meet the needs of this section of the community, a sum of £450 is provided by the Government. The relief given to paupers in this way amounts to five shillings a head per quarter.

GENERAL CONDITION OF THE COLONY.

172. The progress made by the Colony during the last few years has been satisfactorily maintained. The statistics show that the revenue and the value of imports and exports are the highest on record, and although they were unduly increased by the abnormal prices paid for local produce during the earlier part of the year, there is reason to believe that even without this the figures would have exceeded those for the previous year.

The establishment by the principal mercantile houses of branch businesses in the Protectorate, which followed the construction of the railway and of the roads in connection with it, by affording the people a means of readily and profitably disposing of their produce has contributed largely to the rapid development of the country; and as this development continues it is to be expected that there will be a corresponding improvement in the Colony's financial condition. The progress of a country is, however, so intimately connected with the standard of education attained by its people that until the low standard which now obtains here is improved it cannot be expected that Sierra Leone will make that progress which the development of its resources is capable of securing.

E. EVELYN,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Freetown, Sierra Leone,
28th August, 1908.

APPENDIX.

ECONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL
INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR 1907 FOR THE COLONY
OF SIERRA LEONE.

Reports from the Imperial Institute have been made to the Government of the Colony on the following subjects on the basis of investigations conducted in the Scientific and Technical Department, followed, when necessary, by technical trials by manufacturers and commercial experts. In many cases recommendations have been made as to the further action which is required in the Colony in order to develop the production of those materials for which it is probable that there would be a satisfactory commercial demand.

Rubber.

Five samples of rubber collected in the Gola Forest were examined. Four of them were of very promising quality, and, if carefully collected and prepared, the rubber would command satisfactory prices in the English market. The fifth specimen contained a large amount of resin, and would consequently be of low value. No information is available as to the identity of the plants from which these rubbers were obtained, but botanical specimens have been asked for.

Further specimens of *Landolphia* and *Funtumia* rubbers were also submitted. A comparative examination of *Landolphia* rubber prepared (1) in sheets by an improved method and (2) in balls by the ordinary native process showed that the rubber prepared in the former way realises the best price.

Two samples of *Funtumia elastica* rubber in biscuits were examined and proved to be of good quality. They contained 90.5 and 91.2 per cent. of caoutchouc respectively.

Gara Plant.

The Gara plant, which is used in West Africa as the source of a blue dye-stuff, was examined for the Imperial Institute by Mr. A. G. Perkin, F.R.S., of Leeds University, who found that it contains indigotin identical with that present in the various species of *Indigofera* which are used as sources of indigo in India, Java, and elsewhere.

Ginger.

The questions connected with the development of the ginger industry in Sierra Leone, which had been dealt with in 1906, received further attention during 1907. A memorandum was prepared for the Government of the Colony giving information regarding improved methods of cultivation and preparation, and subsequently small consignments of ginger were shipped to this country, representing (1) ginger prepared by the improved method and (2) ginger prepared by the native method, but thoroughly dried. These consignments were sold in London in consultation with the Imperial Institute. The better-prepared ginger realised from 64s. to 66s. per cwt. as against 32s. 6d. paid for the consignments prepared in the usual way, thus clearly indicating the advantage of devoting more attention to the preparation of ginger for the market.

Cotton.

Two samples of unginned "Quondi" cotton were found to be of good quality and similar to Indian cotton. They were valued at 5½d. and 5¾d. per lb., with "good" Broach at 5¾d. per lb.

Fibres.

A consignment of about 1½ tons of "Kowe" fibre (*Hibiscus quinquelobus*) was received for trial sale. The product was too coarse and harsh to be employed as a jute substitute, but realised £17 to £18 in the London market for use in rope manufacture.

A sample of "Napunti" fibre (*Honckenia ficifolia*) was also forwarded. It consisted of coarse brown bast ribbons, which, it was stated, represented the only form in which the natives could prepare the fibre. "Napunti" fibre of this character would only be suitable for use as a paper material, and its collection and exportation for this purpose would probably be unremunerative. A specimen of Napunti bark was examined with the object of ascertaining its value for paper-making. It is doubtful, however, whether the product could be successfully utilised for the purpose.

A specimen of *Sansevieria guineensis* fibre was found to be well-cleaned, of good colour, and worth £31 per ton.

Essential Oil.

A consignment of the leaves of *Ocimum viride* was forwarded in order that the essential oil which they yield might be examined. This oil would be of commercial value on account of the large proportion (32 per cent.) of thymol which it contains. It is probable that the residue left after removing the thymol could also be used for perfuming soaps.

Vegetable Oil.

The oil from the seeds of *Lophira alata* has been examined, and has been valued provisionally at £20 per ton for soap-making purposes. A trial consignment of the seeds has been asked for.

Tanning Material.

A sample of red mangrove bark proved to be too poor in tannin to be exported, though possibly it could be used locally for tanning or for the preparation of a tanning extract.

Minerals.

The minerals received for examination were principally sands supposed to contain rare earths, and in one or two of the specimens traces of monazite were found. Reports were also furnished on a sample of iron ore of fair quality, and on several sands consisting mainly of ilmenite and magnetic iron ore.

A number of exhibits which have been received from Sierra Leone during the year have been added to the West African Court in the Public Galleries, and descriptive labels provided for them. A new show case has been provided. A catalogue of the Sierra Leone exhibits has been prepared for publication in the "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute."

Mr. G. C. Dudgeon, the Superintendent of Agriculture for West Africa, has been in constant communication with the Imperial Institute on all matters connected with agricultural operations and development, and has transmitted numerous specimens of economic products for examination at the Imperial Institute.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
553	St. Lucia	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906-1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar	"
564	Ashanti	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907-1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast... ..	1907
567	Seychelles	"
568	Bermuda	"
569	Weihaiwei	"
570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta... ..	1907-1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907-1908
575	Bahamas	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907-1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907
579	St. Lucia	"
580	Fiji	"
581	Mauritius	"
582	Straits Settlements... ..	"
583	Southern Nigeria	"
584	Imperial Institute	1906-1907
585	Barbados	1907-1908
586	Somaliland Protectorate	"
587	Trinidad and Tobago	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
49	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies	Cotton cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907-08.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's visit to Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 542.

SOMALILAND PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1906-7.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 508.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1907.



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No. 542.

SOMALILAND PROTECTORATE.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 508.)

THE ACTING COMMISSIONER to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Commissioner's Office,
Camp Ariaaleh,
14th September, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report on the Somaliland Protectorate for the year ended 31st March, 1907.

I have, &c.,

W. MALCOLM JONES,
Acting Commissioner.

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

REPORT ON THE SOMALILAND PROTECTORATE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1906-7.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The revenue estimated for the year 1906-7 was £28,905, whereas the actual revenue came to £38,388, being an increase over the estimate of £9,483—but a decrease on the revenue for the year of 1905-6 of £1,089—though an increase of £3,200 over the revenue for the year 1904-5.

As compared with the revenue for the year 1905-6, increases appear under "Customs Duties," "Interest," "Judicial Fines and Fees" and "Unclaimed Deposits," but decreases under "Licences, Dues, &c.," "Miscellaneous Revenue" and "Postal Receipts."

The increase under "Customs Duties" is comparatively small, and may be attributed to a slight increase of trade emanating from the Makhir coast ports.

The increase under "Judicial Fines and Fees" is due to the fact that more civil suit cases were tried by the Protectorate Courts, resulting in an increase in court fees.

The decrease under "Licences and Dues" is caused by the inclusion of Port Dues under "Customs Duties."

Under "Postal Receipts" the decrease is explained by the amount received for sale of obsolete stamps being much less than in the previous year.

Expenditure.

The estimated expenditure for 1906-7 was £121,758, but only £107,104 was expended, the saving being £14,654. Comparing the figures of 1906-7 with those of 1905-6, a decrease is shown of £20,376, and an increase over the figures for 1904-5 of £33,417.

Increases, as compared with the figures for 1905-6, appear under the heads "Audit," "Bombay Agency," "Conservancy," "Exchange," "Medical," "Non-Effective Services," "Printing and Stationery," "Public Works," "Purchase of Expeditionary Stores from War Office," while decreases are shown under "Administration," "Customs," "Educational," "Military and Militia," "Miscellaneous," "Native Civil Administration," "Police and Prisons," "Port and Marine," "Post and Telegraphs," "Transport and Passages," "Treasury," "Dolbahanta Political Grant," "Compensation to Warsangli," and "Old Somali Levy."

The increase under "Public Works" is due to more extensive building operations than in 1905-6.

From "Administration" the cost of Tribal Militia was excluded and included under "Militia."

A decrease of £12,093 appears under military and militia schedules as compared with the expenditure under these heads in 1905-6. The military forces were re-organized.

(B.) IMPORTANT CHANGES IN TAXATION.

Nil.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The total assets on the 1st April, 1907, were £67,460 13s. 4d., as compared with £94,122 13s. 11d. on 1st April, 1906.

The liabilities were £14,024 16s. 8d., showing a surplus of assets over liabilities of £53,435 16s. 8d.

(D.) CURRENCY.

The currency of Somaliland Protectorate is based on the Indian rupee. A few Government of India notes are in circulation. The British sovereign is also in circulation, but chiefly on the coast, the native from the interior preferring the silver-coinage as being the more convenient for trading purposes.

Subsidiary coins are:—

Silver—	$\frac{1}{2}$	Rupee.
	$\frac{1}{4}$	Rupee.
	$\frac{1}{8}$	Rupee.
Copper—	$\frac{1}{2}$	Anna.
	$\frac{1}{4}$	Anna.
	$\frac{1}{8}$	Anna.

The Indian new "nickel" 1 anna coins have not as yet come into circulation in the Protectorate.

Abyssinian coins of the same denominations as those of the rupee are occasionally used, and the "Maria Theresa" dollar to a limited extent is in circulation, the rate of exchange varying between Rs. 1 4a. and Rs. 1 10a.

There are no banks doing business in the Protectorate.

(E.) MUNICIPAL.

A municipal fund exists in Berbera only, revenue controlled by the District Officer, Berbera, being derived from the following sources:—

1. Sweeping and hut tax.
2. Nuisance fines.

The tax is paid by every house-owner in the town of Berbera, and the fines are collected from people committing a nuisance within a limited area.

The tax is levied at Berbera only, but fines are inflicted both at Bulhar and Zeyla.

The establishment maintained is as follows:—

- 1 Tax Collector at Rs. 30 per mensem.
- 1 Foreman at Rs. 27 per mensem.
- 16 Sweepers at Rs. 16, Rs. 15, and Rs. 12 per mensem.
- 6 Watchmen at Rs. 12 per mensem.

Revenue during the year 1906-7 amounted to Rs. 7,880 7a., and showed an increase of Rs. 605 7a. on the preceding year, with a decrease of Rs. 1,128 in expenditure.

A comparative statement of revenue and expenditure of the Berbera Municipal Fund during the last five years is shown below:—

—	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	5,246	5,810	5,957	7,275	7,880
Expenditure... ..	4,063	4,044	4,457	8,040	6,912

There is no municipality in Zeyla. The town is kept clean by sweepers, who are paid by the administration. There are eight sweepers, one foreman and one lamp-lighter, who cost altogether Rs. 2,124 per annum.

At the present time, most of the trade having left the port, owing to the completion of the Djibouti Railway, it is hardly advisable to propose any fresh taxation; but it is difficult to understand why, when the trade of Zeyla was flourishing, the whole expense of keeping the town clean should have been thrown on the Administration.

(F.) DEBTS OF THE MUNICIPALITIES.

The municipality of Berbera has no debt.

II.—TRADE AND SHIPPING.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The annual value of trade of the British Somaliland Protectorate for the last five years was:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1902-3	39,26,698	36,38,159	75,64,857
1903-4	56,21,817	29,95,483	86,17,300
1904-5	44,81,072	28,61,369	73,42,441
1905-6	39,27,414	30,40,980	69,68,394
1906-7	41,68,329	31,80,885	73,49,214

Imports.

The value of the imports for the year 1906-7, including specie (Rs. 190,180), was Rs. 43,58,509.

The value of imports and specie imported into each port during the year 1906-7 was:—

Port.	—	Value.	Value.
Value of Imports.		Rs.	Rs.
Berbera ...	...	19,10,404	
Bulhar ...	...	9,66,952	
Hais... ..	...	1,03,688	
Karam ...	...	17,570	
Zeyla ...	...	11,69,715	
			41,68,329
Value of Specie.			
Berbera ...	...	66,955	
Bulhar ...	...	8,145	
Zeyla ...	...	1,15,050	
			1,90,180
Total		—	43,58,509

REMARKS ON IMPORTS.

Cotton Goods.

The year's imports show an increase in the value of European white long-cloth to the value of Rs. 29,925, which can be accounted for mainly by the presence in the coast towns of an unusual number of Ogaden caravans, the owners of which are large purchasers for the purpose of trade in the interior. The large increase of Rs. 4,72,213 in the value of American grey shirting, though due partly to the above cause, is mainly to be accounted for by the threatened imposition of a 10 per cent. duty on goods carried to Abyssinia by the Djibouti railway, which temporarily diverted the trade to Zeyla. A slight decrease in the import of Indian cotton goods is due to the growing preference for the more durable European and American material.

Other Textiles.

The demand for silk goods is always variable, the increased quantity of such goods imported during the year (Rs. 3,560) being chiefly in response to an increased demand from Abyssinia.

Grain, Flour, and Dates.

Rice shows a decrease of Rs. 3,76,925. Large stocks remained in hand from last year, and the general advance of price, in sympathy with the prices ruling in the Indian market,

decreased consumption, the natives finding an efficient substitute for the expensive rice in the cheaper jowari (or millet). Jowari and other grain, however, far from showing the increase which might have been expected, have decreased to the extent of Rs. 15,401.

In 1905-6 a poor harvest in Abyssinia compelled the Harrar traders to purchase imported grain, but in the year under review good crops at Harrar have rendered such purchases unnecessary.

There has been an increase in the value of flour imported to the value of Rs. 11,908. Originally imported only for the use of European residents and alien traders, its consumption as an article of food is gradually growing among Somalis, and the substitution of flour for grain, though at present insignificant, must have been a small factor in helping to reduce the grain imports commented upon above.

The import of dates has fallen off to the extent of Rs. 59,628. The causes of this decline are to be found in short supply and high prices.

Imports of food supplies as a whole, fluctuate with rainfall. In years when grazing is plentiful the natives are enabled to subsist almost exclusively on the milk and produce of their flocks, and as it is only in bad years that they are compelled to have recourse to imported food, a decrease in imports is the natural result of a year of prosperity.

Provisions.

Sugar, due to its growing use among natives, principally as a flavouring for tea, has increased by Rs. 16,109, and an increase of Rs. 10,830 is shown under the head of European stores and tea.

Increases also appear as under:—

	Rs.
Amber beads	4,526
Enamelled ware	1,497
Earthen and glass ware	5,309
Building material	4,632
Iron and steel ware, cutlery, and nails...	747
Kerosine	8,577
Miscellaneous	24,895

The increased importation of imitation amber beads and enamelled iron ware has involved a slight decrease in glass beads (Rs. 115) and brass and copper ware (Rs. 400), for the reason that the native who cannot afford genuine amber ornaments, prefers the cheap imitation to glass, and that enamelled ware is in growing demand for domestic purposes in preference to the more costly copper utensils.

Specie imported, which shows a large increase, was mostly dollar currency destined for use in Abyssinia.

Exports.

In 1906-7 the value of exports amounted to Rs. 33,18,837, distributed as follows:—

Exports.				Value.
				Rs
Somaliland produce	...	...	...	31,74,880
Imports re-exported	...	...	...	6,005
Specie	...	...	...	1,37,952
Total	...	Rs.		33,18,837

REMARKS ON EXPORTS.

Exports, other than specie, show an increase during the year of Rs. 1,39,990 over the figures for 1905-6. Among the more noticeable items are the following:—

	Rs.
Coffee	89,380
Beeswax	1,693
Ghee	1,56,390
Ostrich feathers	10,915
Pearls	18,220
Sheep and goats	25,420

The increased export of coffee, beeswax, and feathers was due to a temporary diversion of trade from Djibouti to Zeyla, owing to fear of the imposition of a 10 per cent. duty on railway traffic. The production of ghee was greater, owing to the prosperous season and the consequent larger supply of milk for the manufacture.

Decreased exports are shown under:—

	Rs.
Gums and resins, to the extent of	19,234
Skins, to the extent of	94,418
Shells, to the extent of	17,607
Miscellaneous, to the extent of	4,696
Cattle, to the extent of	7,455
and specie	...

The decreased production of gums and resins is due chiefly to the fact that its collection depends on the individual inclinations of poor nomad gum pickers, and to the meagre price offered by merchants at the ports.

The export of skins has fallen off for the same reason that the production of ghee has increased, namely, a favourable season, during which the slaughter of animals is restricted by native flockowners. The deficiency in mother-of-pearl shells is due to a smaller number of pearl-fishing dhows having visited the ports, and to the successful competition of the Djibouti market.

(C.) SHIPPING.

The shipping returns for the British Somaliland Protectorate show an increase of 185 vessels and 17,075 tons:—

—	1904-5.		1905-6.		1906-7.	
	Nos.	Tons.	Nos.	Tons.	Nos.	Tons.
Entered ...	2,169	66,398	2,154	75,593	2,246	83,621
Cleared ...	2,187	66,639	2,152	75,411	2,245	84,458
Total ...	4,356	133,037	4,306	151,004	4,491	168,079

More frequent calls of the competitive coasting steamers increased the number which entered and cleared by 153, representing 9,923 extra tonnage, and the greater bulk of trade brought into and taken from the ports of Hais and Bulhar by sailing vessels, during a very prosperous year, contributed to the additional country craft shipping and tonnage, the difference between 1905-6 and 1906-7 being 3,837 and 3,869 in number, and 55,149 and 62,301 in tonnage, respectively.

The number and tonnage of steamers and sailing vessels entered and cleared during the year 1906-7:—

			Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.		Total.	
			Nos.	Tons.	Nos.	Tons.	Nos.	Tons.
Berbera—								
Entered ...	...	...	153	32,126	613	11,721	766	43,847
Cleared...	...	...	153	32,126	612	12,568	765	44,694
Total ...	...	...	306	64,252	1,225	24,289	1,531	88,541
Bulhar—								
Entered ...	...	...	89	10,964	542	7,589	631	18,553
Cleared...	...	...	89	10,964	542	7,589	631	18,553
Total ...	...	...	178	21,928	1,084	15,178	1,262	37,106
Hais—								
Entered ...	...	...	—	—	194	6,004	194	6,004
Cleared...	...	...	—	—	194	5,994	194	5,994
Total ...	...	...	—	—	388	11,998	388	11,998
Zeyla—								
Entered ...	...	...	69	9,799	586	5,418	655	15,217
Cleared...	...	...	69	9,799	586	5,418	655	15,217
Total ...	...	...	138	19,598	1,172	10,836	1,310	30,434

The nationality of vessels entered and cleared during 1906-7 for the British Somaliland Protectorate is made up thus:—

Nationality.	Entered.		Cleared.	
	Nos.	Tons.	Nos.	Tons.
British	1,685	67,741	1,698	67,516
French	9	989	11	1,340
Italian	40	737	41	767
German	2	3,516	2	3,516
Turkish	16	1,154	17	1,852
Arab	493	9,375	475	9,358
Persian	1	109	1	109

(D.) HARBOUR DUES.

The total harbour dues collected at the port of Berbera during the year 1906-7 are shown under the different headings:—

	Amount.
	Rs.
Port dues or tonnage dues	1,651
Licence and monthly fees for passenger boats	207
Licence and monthly fees for cargo boats	1,148
Total	3,006
Total collection for 1905-6	3,021
Decrease Rs.	15

(E.) INLAND TRADE.

(*Brought in by Caravans.*)

The value of the inland trade registered at Berbera and Bulhar zaribas for 1906-7 was:—

	Amount.
	Rs.
Berbera	14,94,213
Bulhar	14,90,006
Total value ... Rs.	29,84,219

showing an increase in value over 1905-6 of Rs. 45,956.

REGISTRATION FEES.

The total revenue derived from registration fees in the Protectorate during the year 1906-7 was collected as under:—

—				Amount.
				Rs.
Berbera, Bulhar, and Hais :—				
Registration Fees	...	...		402
Miscellaneous Fees	...	...		25
Zeyla :—				
Registration Fees	...	...		315
Total	...	...	Rs.	742

Fees charged under the Merchant Shipping Regulation, 1906-7:—

—				Amount.
				Rs.
Berbera :—				
Bills of Health	...	...		135
Other Miscellaneous	...	...		4
Total	...	...	Rs.	139

Statement of Customs collection in the Protectorate for the year 1906-7, compared with the year 1905-6:—

—	Imports.	Exports	Zariba.	Miscellaneous Receipts.	Total.	Refunds.	Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1905-6.							
Berbera	2,02,776	1,43,322	31,873	840	3,79,411	885	3,78,526
Zeyla	38,802	21,716	—	448	60,966	—	60,966
Hais and Karam ..	5,488	4,332	—	57	9,877	—	9,877
Total .. Rs.	2,47,066	1,69,970	31,873	1,345	4,50,254	885	4,49,369
1906-7.							
Berbera and Bulhar	2,01,655	1,43,314	33,349	4,085*	3,82,403	13	3,82,390
Zeyla	39,122	19,124	—	755†	59,001	—	59,001
Hais and Karam ..	7,336	5,896	—	75	13,307	—	13,307
Total .. Rs.	2,48,113	1,68,334	33,349	4,915	4,54,711	13	4,54,698
Increase Rs.	1,047	—	1,476	3,570	6,093	—	5,329
Decrease Rs.	—	1,636	—	—	1,636	—	—

* Port dues Rs. 2,634, registration of vessels Rs. 427, and other receipts Rs. 974.

† Registration of vessels Rs. 314, and other receipts Rs. 441.

(F.) TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND LAND GRANTS.

Land Grants.

No grant of land has been given during the year under report. The dry, arid nature of the soil and the irregular rainfall is not such as would encourage agriculturists or other settlers. Except in the coast towns land is of practically no value.

 III.—LEGISLATION.

Legislation during the year has been limited to the enactment of a "Sale of Poisons Ordinance," having for its object the prevention of the unrestricted sale of opium, morphia, and other poisonous drugs, the sale of which is now prohibited except under licence.

 IV.—EDUCATION.

 PRIMARY EDUCATION—MAIN FEATURES AND NUMBER
OF SCHOOLS.

There are three Government schools in the Protectorate, at Berbera, Bulhar, and Zeyla. The pupils are children of the local Indian and Arab traders, with a few Somalis. Only the reading and writing of Arabic is taught. There is a Roman Catholic Mission and Convent at Berbera, where Somali children receive free education.

They are able to speak and read English, and some of the pupils have obtained employment under Government as clerks and telegraphists.

Beyond the efforts of the Mission there is no secondary education, and industrial schools and training colleges do not exist.

The average attendance at the various schools is as follows:—

Berbera	...	...	...	...	56
Bulhar	...	...	...	...	43
Zeyla	...	...	...	...	81

The cost of maintenance of the three schools during the year was Rs. 1,545.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

The coast town hospitals are situated at Berbera, Bulhar, and Zeyla. These are under civil charge. Besides these general hospitals, there are at Berbera an isolation hospital, now completed, which was opened on October 22nd, for the accommodation of patients suffering from all forms of tubercular disease, and also a single ward building for the purpose of meeting epidemic contingencies. A disinfecting station has been made, consisting of two rooms and a caretaker's hut. The station is furnished with a small "Clayton" disinfecting machine, capable of meeting all probable requirements.

The up-country hospitals are situated at Sheikh and Burao, respectively, and are camp hospitals only. They are under military and militia charge.

The number of cases treated in the civil hospitals was 8,526 during the year, as against 9,109 in 1905. There were eight deaths only in hospital out of 292 admissions, which compares very favourably with last year, in which there were 157 deaths in all; the percentage of deaths to those treated being .08, as against 1.75 in 1905.

The number of in-patients was 492, showing an increase of 178 cases applying for aid for more than trivial ailments. The daily average of sick was 23.9, and there were 16 patients in hospital at the end of the year.

Berbera Hospitals.

(1.) The General Hospital consists of three wards, containing 24 beds. A dispensary, office, medical store, and subordinates' quarters, are a part of this institution. It is to be regretted that no accommodation at present exists for European patients, nor any building suitable for an emergency hospital or for nursing-home requirements.

(2.) The Isolation Hospital is situated on a hill about one and a half miles from the nearest part of the town of Berbera. It consists of buildings enclosed within an outer wall, and has been constructed, in part by repair of an old battery station, and in part by fresh construction work on old foundations. Much of the supervision of the building was under the care of the subordinate medical staff, who gave their time and services freely, after their work was done, during the many months that the building operations were in progress; these persons I now take this special opportunity of thanking for their services, which were gratefully accepted.

This hospital consists of one large ward 88 ft. 9 ins. long by 24 ft. wide and 11 ft. high; and five small wards, each 16½ ft. long by 11 ft. wide by 9½ ft. high. Besides these,

there are a kitchen and a washhouse. The accommodation arranged for at present is 40 beds, the full complement being 60. No water is at present laid on, and this is brought from town by donkey transport.

(3.) The Quarantine Station is a sandy but hard stretch of ground, on the "Spit" which runs along the outer side of the harbour, well separated from the town, and generally well adapted for the purpose. Tents are available for emergencies, and the Disinfecting Station is placed near the natural landing-point, where the camp would be pitched.

(4.) The Infectious Diseases Hospital is a thatched single-roomed structure, partially surrounded by a wall, on the eastern extremity of the town.

Bulhar Hospital.

This consists of a single ward, holding six beds, and a dispensary to which it is attached. Quarters for the resident Hospital Assistant are in course of construction near it.

Zeyla Hospital.

There are three wards, capable of holding 38 patients in all. The hospital is contained within, and forms part of, the fort. Tent accommodation alone exists to meet any infectious diseases outbreak, should one occur.

(B.) ASYLUMS.

No proper asylum exists, but a small room within the gaol at Berbera is made use of for suspected cases occurring among the criminal classes, when it is used for keeping the suspected under observation.

(C.) POOR-HOUSES.

There is no poor-house, but a poor fund, maintained by private subscriptions and administered by the District Officer, exists in Berbera.

(D.) REFORMATORIES.

None. Juvenile offenders are kept at the police station, and not in the regular gaol.

(E.) SAVINGS BANK.

None.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The following table shews the strength and distribution of police, mounted and foot, on March 31st, 1907:—

Mounted Police.

Station.	Jemadars.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.
Berbera and Bulhar	1	35
Zeyla	1	10
Total	2	45

Foot Police.

Station.	European Superintendent.	Jemadars.	Non-commissioned Officers and Men.
Berbera and Bulhar	1	2	138
Karam and Hais	—	2	25
Zeyla	—	2	67
Total	1	6	230

The police forces of the Berbera-Bulhar, Hais, and Karam Districts are organized and disciplined by the Superintendent of Police, under the supervision and control of the District Officer, Berbera.

The total cost of police, including all salaries and personal emoluments, amounted to Rs. 75,510.

(B.) PRISONS.

During the year 1,444 prisoners were convicted by the Berbera and Bulhar Courts, shewing an increase of 239 on the figures for the preceding year. Cost of prisons amounted to Rs. 12,308 4a.

Prisoners sentenced by Military or Political Courts are received in the coast gaols, but cases tried by these Courts are not included in the ordinary criminal returns.

During the year two prisoners escaped, but were re-captured.

The following table shews the number of escapes during the past three years:—

Year.	Escaped.	Recaptured.
1904-5	4	—
1905-6	9	2
1906-7	2	2
Total	15	4

The daily average of convicted prisoners in Berbera and Bulhar gaols was 173, against 150 in 1905-06.

Only one death took place amongst the prisoners during the year under report.

The Zeyla gaol is a small coral building, roofed with corrugated iron, and is under the direct supervision of the Sub-Commissioner. It has not been found possible to render the labour of prisoners remunerative. Most of the so-called political prisoners are merely detained pending the restitution of stock looted in the interior by them or by their relations, and their expenses while so detained are recovered, when possible, from their tribe. Civil prisoners are not required to labour, but are merely taken out for exercise. Their expenses while detained in prison are generally recovered from the judgment creditor at whose instance they are detained.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Berbera and Bulhar.

There were 1,388 summary convictions in the subordinate Courts, and four convictions in the Higher Court during 1906-07.

A comparative statement of cases reported to the police at Berbera and Bulhar during the last five years is appended:—

Year.	Cases reported.	Convictions or Committals.
1902-3	630	574
1903-4	No statistics	No statistics
1904-5	991	774
1905-6	1,457	1,241
1906-7	1,569	1,392

Of the 1,569 cases reported, 966 appear under the head of "Other Offences," which include breaches of local rules and

other minor offences, leaving 603 cases to be classified as crime. In 1905-6 there were 353 cases, under the heading of "Other Offences," leaving 1,104 under "Crime." There has been, therefore, a decrease of 501 cases of crime during the year.

This is due mostly to the fact that the large number of pauper refugees driven down to the coast towns during the military expeditions have by degrees returned to the interior, where peaceable conditions again exist.

During the year under review there were two cases of murder.

A comparative statement of serious crimes is appended:—

Crime.	Convictions, 1905-06.	Convictions, 1906-07.
Rape	4	5
Murder	—	2
Robbery	180	170
Grievous hurt	15	5
Manslaughter... ..	1	—
Riot	—	31
Forgery	—	2
Total	200	215

The convictions in the Protectorate Court and the District Courts for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.	Protectorate Court.	District Court.
1902-3	5	569
1903-4	No statistics	No statistics
1904-5	2	772
1905-6	3	1,225
1906-7	4	1,388

Of the four convictions in the Protectorate Court, two were for murder, one for rape, and the other for smuggling.

The Protectorate Court returns shew cases tried before His Majesty's Commissioner, and the District Court figures represent cases tried in the District and subordinate Courts of Berbera and Bulhar.

Zeyla.

Criminal statistics shew 79 cases tried by the Sub-Commissioner during the year under report. 131 persons were convicted.

There was one appeal against the decision of the Zeyla Court, which was rejected by the Protectorate Court.

As a matter of fact there is no criminal population in Zeyla; most of the offences committed are not of a serious character, being chiefly assaults and petty thefts.

Bad characters from Djibouti and from Berbera turn up occasionally.

Of the 79 cases tried, 56 were for serious crime, as detailed below: —

Crime.	Committals.
Affray	15
Assault	29
Intimidation	4
Rape	1
Theft	2
Contempt of lawful authority...	3
Unlawful assembly	1
Smuggling	1
	56

and 23 were classified as "Other Petty Offences."

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

Return of the statistics of population for the year:—

—	Europeans and Whites.	Somalis.	Indians.	Chinese and Malay.	Mixed and Coloured.	—
Number of inhabitants in 1906.	55'	300,000	200	—	100	Approximate. Unknown.
Births, 1906	—	—	—	—	—	
Deaths, 1906	—	—	—	—	—	
Immigrants, 1906 ..	10	4,183	—	—	—	
Emigrants, 1906 ..	—	4,183	—	—	—	
Inhabitants, 1906	65	300,000	200	—	100	
Increase	10	—	—	—	—	
Decrease	—	—	—	—	—	

Population.

The population, owing to the quiet which has existed during the last two years, is probably on the increase, though the outbreak of small-pox in 1904-5 rendered any increase during 1904 at least problematical.

Birth Rate.

No actual figures are known, but an estimate taken at the coast towns shews that this is 10 per cent. among the married women.

Death Rates.

No records are available.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general public health of the native population in the Protectorate has been good. Among the Europeans, however, a rather severe epidemic occurred in the spring of remittent malarial fever, which, although no deaths occurred, was sufficiently severe to temporarily necessitate a general exodus from Berbera of nearly the whole of the European community to a healthier location in the interior.

As regards the table of diseases it should be borne in mind that there exists a great difference between the winter and summer numbers of the population on the coast. There are some 3,000 to 4,000 Somalis in Berbera during the summer months, while during the winter months the population mounts up to 20,000 to 30,000.

The periods when sickness is chiefly prevalent are the spring and autumn, in consequence chiefly of the lack of wool clothing among the natives, who use cotton almost exclusively.

A considerable amount of care is called for in preventing the importation of infectious diseases, both from the interior of Africa generally and Abyssinia in particular, as well as from the rice ports of India and the date-exporting centres along the Persian Gulf. The absolute disregard of the Somalis for disease, coupled with their universal practice of travelling to some fresh locality when attacked by illness, increases the risks to an enormous extent. Neurasthenia, general debility, and slight intermittent malarial fever are the chief European ailments. Among the natives, ulcers on the legs, scurvy, and diseases of the digestive system predominate. In spite of the high temperature, insolation is practically unknown, even on the coast. There were no cases of plague, and only two cases of small-pox during the year, these cases coming from the interior.

Malarial Fever.

As reported at the end of last year, the sequence to the increase of malaria, then drawn attention to, has marked the year 1906 by an outbreak of remittent fever among the European staff on the coast. The sources of the origin were persons arriving from East Africa and Burma; both of these parties seem to have caused an infection. This year there have been 539 cases as against 117 in 1905 and nine cases only in 1904. The matter is serious, and is likely to be more so unless the public works in connection with the removal of insanitary buildings and of old concealed cess pits and drains can be pushed forward. No natural breeding grounds exist for mosquitoes, and no malaria should occur if rudimentary precautions with regard to vegetation and drainage were adopted, as was pointed out in 1905.

Dysentery.

The number of cases was 62 for the year, as against 117 last year; the cases were fortunately all of a mild type.

Malignant and Non-malignant growths.

No cases of malignant growth, or suspected malignancy, were reported, and only two cases of benign growths, these being mycetomata.

Diseases of the Skin.

Scabies and ulcers are responsible for the vast majority of these cases, while during the summer months there are usually a fair proportion of patients with boils, due to the quantity of sand in the atmosphere at the time when they are most debilitated by the excessive heat.

Phthisis.

No cases came under treatment, as against 36 last year. As then stated, this by no means gives the probable estimate of the general prevalence, and indications exist that it is pretty widespread throughout the country.

Vaccinations.

The number of vaccinations performed during the year was 228 only. The considerable decrease from 1,650 in 1905 was occasioned by the lack of funds. Of the cases under treatment, 112 vaccinations were successful.

(C.) SANITATION.*The General Sanitary Condition of the Protectorate and Chief Towns.*

The dry condition of the climate is the chief factor that prevents serious outbreaks. As regards the coast towns, both the buildings and drainage systems are defective in many particulars.

Berbera.

This, the chief town, alone has a water service, which comes in pipes from springs some nine miles away, where the water issues from a rock channel at about 100° F. An excess of chlorides is the chief impurity.

The drainage system is by superficial and indifferently constructed stone channels, either open or roofed over, both of which types are to be condemned. A dry-earth closet system is used for the European quarters, which is satisfactory. An extension of the garden area and the planting of shrubs and trees which is being carried out round many of the houses does not commend itself from a safety point of view. Overcrowding is unknown, owing to the temporary nature of the native dwellings, which consist of mat shelters, which are transported from place to place by camels.

Bulhar and Zeyla.

These towns are supplied by brackish wells, mostly at a distance from the towns themselves. The water is liable to produce symptoms of diarrhœa for several weeks among those unaccustomed to the impurities of salt and sand with which it is laden. The houses and drainage are greatly in need of attention.

Inland Posts.

Posts at Sheikh, Burao, and Ber have all a fair, but limited, water supply. No permanent dwellings exist.

(D.) CLIMATE.

The climate of the Somaliland Protectorate is a naturally dry and uniform one. Both the diurnal variations, as well as the changes of the seasons, maintain a regularity of mean variation that is inconsiderable.

There are two distinct seasons, briefly described as the hot and the cool, which correspond with the summer and winter seasons of Europe in their times. They are determined in the main by the monsoon changes.

During the hot months, from May to September, the coast becomes almost true desert, being completely dried up, the rainfall being negligible in quantity.

Temperature.

Two ranges of temperature only are markedly appreciable, and these maintain a pretty uniform relation, the one to the other. These two ranges are the coast level, and the highland. The first holds good for all the country for nearly a fifty-mile deep belt from the coast to the hills, the second or highland being that of the interior generally, and differing little from the former in diurnal changes if read 10° F. lower.

The extremes of temperatures recorded at Berbera were:—
Lowest (shade maximum) 62° , occurring in January; highest
(shade maximum 114° , on July 1st. The mean temperature
was 82.8° F. at Berbera, and the daily range 15° F.

Rainfall.

The rainfall throughout the country is almost exclusively
confined to the cool season. The total fall for the year, as
registered at Berbera, was 7.02 inches.

Direction and Force of Wind.

The direction of the wind is from the north-east during the
months of November, December, January, and February, and
in some seasons during March and October. During April,
May, June, July, and August the prevailing wind is south-
west, and often of great strength.

Solar Radiation.

The mean for the year was 120, and a maximum of 135 was
obtained on August 23rd.

Abnormal Phenomena.

No abnormal phenomena were recorded as having occurred.

VIII.—GENERAL.

Return of game animals killed under licence during the year
ending December 31st, 1906:—

Animal.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Lion	3	—	3
Leopard	5	4	9
Cheetah	3	2	5
Greater Kudu	12	—	12
Lesser Kudu	8	—	8
Oryx	15	7	22
Waller's Gazelle	44	2	46
Hartebeeste	25	4	29
Clarke's Gazelle	12	1	13
Soemmering's Gazelle	71	10	81
Speke's Gazelle	60	8	68
Dik Dik	57	17	74
Klipspringer	3	1	4
Wart Hog	7	1	8
Beira	1	—	1

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
512	Southern Nigeria	1905
513	Basutoland	1905-1906
514	British Guiana	"
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905-1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti... ..	"
524	Jamaica	1905-1906
525	Uganda... ..	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906-1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	"
535	Malta	1906-1907
536	Gambia... ..	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906-1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
539	Leeward Islands	"
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis ...	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904-5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate ...	Report on Kenia Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1905-6.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 586.

SOMALILAND PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1907-8.

(For Report for 1906-7, *see* No. 542.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1908.



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No. 586.

SOMALILAND PROTECTORATE.

(For Report for 1906-7, *see* No. 542.)

THE COMMISSIONER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Commissioner's Office,
Camp Hargaisa,
25th August, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Annual Report on the Somaliland Protectorate for the year ended the 31st of March, 1908.

I have, &c.,

H. E. S. CORDEAUX.

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

REPORT ON THE SOMALILAND PROTECTORATE BLUE BOOK FOR THE YEAR 1907-8.

I—FINANCIAL.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

The Revenue for the year under review, amounting as it does to only £28,607, is some £6,815 below the estimated amount of £35,422, and is the lowest amount collected since 1902-03.

The figures for the last six years are appended for comparison:—

					Revenue collected.
					£
1902-1903	...	...	...	...	24,968
1903-1904	...	...	...	...	39,842
1904-1905	...	...	...	...	35,188
1905-1906	...	...	...	...	39,477
1906-1907	...	...	...	...	38,388
1907-1908	...	...	...	...	28,607

There is very little doubt that the financial crisis in the United States is, to some extent at least, responsible for the falling off in trade in Somaliland.

The principal shortage in Revenue is under the heads of Customs and Post Office.

Customs.

Here the amount realised fell short of the estimate by £6,618, import duty showing an approximate shortage of £4,800 and export duty one of £1,800.

Imports of American grey sheeting, rice, dates, and European white long-cloth fell off very considerably during the year when compared with former years. The partial failure of the grain crop in India and the consequent high cost of rice deterred natives, especially the Ogaden and other southern tribes, from bringing their produce, skins and ghee chiefly, to the coast towns. Whether they still hold their stocks of skins pending a rise in prices and a fall in the cost of imported rice, or whether they disposed of the same at places outside the British sphere of influence cannot, at the date of writing, be determined. That the prices obtainable for goat and sheep skins, the principal articles of export, must shortly show an improvement is virtually certain and Customs Revenue for the current year (1908-1909) should be quite up to the average. It must not be forgotten, however, that prices of skins, for

which the United States of America is the principal market, were somewhat inflated previous to the commencement of the year under review, and unless there is a considerable boom when the reaction in the American market sets in, these prices will possibly not be realised again. The Somali trader, while keen to take advantage of the prices obtainable in a rising market, fails to appreciate the laws of supply and demand when the market is falling. For instance, if in one year he has obtained top prices for his produce, he expects similar prices next year, when possibly the demand is much smaller. If the price obtainable is much below that of the former year he may either elect to sell only just sufficient to enable him to obtain the bare necessities of life, keeping the remainder in anticipation of better times, or he may endeavour to obtain more favourable terms elsewhere. Rice and dates (the former imported from India and the latter from Arabia) constitute the favourite food of the Somali, but he can do without these, substituting a diet of jowari (millet)—largely grown in Abyssinia and on which no Custom revenue can be collected by the Protectorate if purchased by the natives direct—meat, and milk.

There is no doubt that in the year under review the Somalis from the interior, especially, as before mentioned, the southern tribes living on the fringe of the sphere of British influence on whom the trade of the country almost solely depends, have substituted jowari for rice, for a time at least. This should fully explain the shortage in revenue from imports and exports.

Post Office.

There is also a shortage in Revenue compared with the Estimates under "Post Office" amounting to £633, or as compared with the figures for 1906-1907 of £1,454. It is hardly fair to compare the revenue from this source collected in 1907-1908 with that collected in the previous year, as in 1906-1907 comparatively large sales of obsolete stamps were made, but there was no inflation of Revenue in 1907-1908 from this somewhat unforeseen source. The revenue collected during 1907-1908 may be properly considered as the legitimate earnings of the Post Office.

Comparing the total revenue collected in 1907-1908 with that collected in 1906-1907 there is a difference of £9,781, but it must be remembered that the revenue in 1906-1907 was swelled by such items as the following, which are really not recurring:—

Sale of obsolete stamps.

Recovery of exchange on drafts to meet War Office expenditure.

Interest on large accumulated balances on deposit.

Deposits unclaimed for over five years written off to Revenue.

Expenditure.

The total expenditure in 1907-1908 was £105,200 16s. 3d., or £1,903 less than that in the previous year, 1906-1907, notwithstanding the inclusion of certain items amounting to £4,813, which were the outcome of the expedition of 1902-1904, and which had been in abeyance during the intervening years.

Owing to the reclassification of the heads of expenditure, a comparison between the totals under each head would not be very instructive.

The organization of a Political Administration caused a new head of expenditure to appear in the Estimates. The cost of this Department for the year was estimated at £16,659, this expenditure being met by a corresponding reduction under Military.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The total assets on 1st April, 1908, were £25,016 7s. 2d., as against £67,460 13s. 4d. on 1st April, 1907. The liabilities were £11,174 18s. 2d., showing a surplus of assets over liabilities of £13,841 9s. 0d.

CURRENCY.

The currency of the Somaliland Protectorate is based on the Indian rupee. Government of India notes are accepted amongst the merchants of the coastal towns; so also is the British sovereign.

The reserve of gold mentioned in the report for 1905-1906 has gradually diminished.

The subsidiary coins in circulation are:—

Silver—	Half rupee.
„	Quarter rupee.
„	One-eighth rupee.
Nickel—	One anna.
Copper—	Half anna.
„	Quarter anna.
„	One-twelfth anna.

There are no banks doing business in the Protectorate.

MUNICIPAL.

A municipal fund only exists in Berbera. Revenue controlled by the District Officer, Berbera, is obtained from the following sources:—

1. Sweeping and hut tax.
2. Fines.

The tax is paid by everyone who has a house or hut in the town of Berbera, and the fines are collected from people committing offences against sanitary regulations.

The tax is only levied at Berbera, but fines are inflicted both at Bulhar and Zaila.

The establishment maintained is as follows:—

1 Tax Collector at Rs. 30 per mensem.

1 Mucadum at Rs. 27 per mensem.

16 Sweepers at Rs. 16, 15, and 12 per mensem.

5 Watchmen at Rs. 12 per mensem.

Revenue during 1907-1908 amounted to Rs. 8,204 11*a.* 3*p.*, an increase of Rs. 324 4*a.* 3*p.* on last year. There was a decrease of Rs. 1,462 1*a.* 10*p.* in expenditure.

A comparative statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years is shown below:—

—	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue	5,810	5,957	7,275	7,880	8,205
Expenditure	4,044	4,457	8,040	6,912	5,450

There is no municipality in Zaila. The town is kept clean by the Government sweepers, who are paid by the Administration.

There are 9 sweepers, 1 mucadum, and 1 lamp-lighter, who cost altogether Rs. 2,211 8*a.* 1*p.*

DEBTS OF THE MUNICIPALITIES.

The municipalities have no debts.

II.—TRADE AND SHIPPING.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The annual value of trade of the British Somaliland Protectorate for the last five years was:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1903-4	56,21,817	29,95,483	86,17,300
1904-5	44,81,072	28,61,369	73,42,441
1905-6	39,27,414	30,40,980	69,68,394
1906-7	41,68,329	31,80,885	73,49,214
1907-8	33,49,200	30,07,557	63,56,757

Imports.

The value of the imports for the year 1907-08, including specie (Rs. 1,49,384), was Rs. 34,98,584.

The value of imports and specie imported into each port during the year 1907-1908 was:—

Value of imports:—

				Rs.	Rs.
Berbera	...	...	...	20,45,250	
Bulhar	...	...	...	5,56,700	
Hais	...	...	...	72,485	
Karam	...	...	...	20,538	
Zaila	...	...	...	6,54,227	
					33,49,200
Value of specie—					
Berbera	...	...	...	34,787	
Bulhar	...	...	...	16,749	
Zaila	...	...	...	97,848	
					1,49,384
Total	...	...	...	...	34,98,584

REMARKS ON IMPORTS.

Cotton Goods.

The year's imports show a decrease in the value of European white long-cloth to the value of Rs. 23,559, which is to be attributed mainly to the general depression of the skin market in sympathy with American and other foreign markets, combined with an unfavourable breeding season.

The decrease of Rs. 5,44,689 in the value of American grey shirting imported, though due partly to the above cause, is to be accounted for, mainly, by the removal of the enhanced railway freights on goods carried to Abyssinia via Djibouti, which led to the temporary diversion of the trade to Zaila. A superficial increase of Rs. 20,456 in the import of other cotton pieces is due to Government importation mainly.

Other Textiles.

The silk trade among the Somalis is practically nil, and among alien tribes very limited. The decrease to the value of Rs. 2,579 of silk imported reveals the absence of Abyssinian demand.

Grain, Flour, and Dates.

Rice shows a decrease of Rs. 5,33,124. Scarcity of labour, failure of pasturages, the abnormal rise of the price of grain in India, and the general financial commotion in

America, with its resultant depression of the skin market on the Continent, forced Somalis to remain contented with cheaper jowari and ready-made cheap bread prepared of wheatmeal or jowari. Contrary to expectation jowari and other kinds of grain instead of showing an increase, have decreased; the former to the extent of Rs. 24,141, and the latter to the considerable amount of Rs. 139,403.

A very prosperous jowari crop in Abyssinia during the year 1907-1908 caused a fall in the import grain trade, as it rendered purchases of these commodities unnecessary for Harrar traders.

The gradually growing tendency of Somalis to make a more liberal use of cheaper ready-made breads chiefly prepared of wheatmeal resulted in a small increase of Rs. 7,491 in the imports of such breadstuffs.

The date trade has declined to the extent of Rs. 51,808. The meagre prices offered by local merchants resulted in a short supply by the diversion of Persian Gulf dhows to other ports outside the Protectorate. This led to higher prices, which reduced consumption.

Imports of food supplies as a whole fluctuate with rainfall, or with the realisations from the skin trade. The sharp decline of the latter, together with scarcity of rain, naturally resulted in the decrease of imported food.

Provisions.

Imports of sugar, due to its growing use among natives, have increased by Rs. 14,855, and an increase is shown under European stores and tea of Rs. 11,466.

Increases also appear as under:—

	Rs.
Animals, living	2,957
Arms and ammunition	28,343
Building material	26,381
Drugs	1,809
Furniture	9,580
Leather manufactures	10,258
Machinery and parts thereof	18,007
Malt liquors, wines, and spirits	5,516
Metals: Iron and steelware, including cutlery and nails	55,275
Oil, lamp, petroleum	1,043
Tobacco, manufactured and unmanufactured	4,626
Miscellaneous	68,604

The increased importation of building materials, machinery and parts thereof, and metals, is mainly due to the recent

inauguration of the Fibre Company in the Protectorate. Government, too, is responsible for part of the increase in these items as well as for the increased importation of animals (living), arms and ammunition, leather manufactures, furniture and miscellaneous.

Specie imported, which shows a large increase, was mostly dollar currency destined for use in Abyssinia.

Exports.

In 1907-1908 the value of exports amounted to Rs. 32,35,618, distributed as follows:—

Exports.	Value. Rs.
Somaliland produce	29,95,172
Imports re-exported	12,390
Specie	2,28,061
Total	32,35,618

REMARKS ON EXPORTS.

Exports, other than specie, show a decrease during the year of Rs. 1,73,278 on the figures for 1906-1907. Among the more noticeable items are the following:—

	Rs.
Animals (living); sheep, goats, camels, and oxen	8,245
Ghee (clarified butter)	86,765
Coffee, raw	37,569
Hides, oxen and unenumerated ...	23,507
Precious stones, unset pearls ...	11,837
Saffron	2,518
Salt	2,625
Skins, sheep and goats', and unenum- erated, dressed and undressed ...	88,221
Beeswax	3,492
Miscellaneous	9,096

The decreased export of coffee, saffron, and beeswax was due to the reversion of trade from Zaila to Djibouti, which was due to the removal of the 10 per cent. increase of the railway rates. Short supply of milk owing to the unfavourable breeding season, general good condition of cattle, the fall of prices ruling in foreign pearl markets, and the temporary decline of the skin trade are the causes for the general decrease.

Increased exports are shown as under:—

	Rs.
Animals (living); sheep and goats, horses and other kinds	32,405
Bones	1,780
Feathers, ornamental, ostrich	6,849
Fibre	2,315
Fish, cured and salted	9,755
Gum; myrrh, arabic and unenumerated	5,382
Ivory, teeth, elephants	10,457
Manure, guano	13,956

and specie.

An unfavourable breeding season and a very bad year directed the attention of nomads to home industries such as gum-picking, charcoal-making, feather-collecting, and fibre-extracting. The general depression could not but be without its effects on merchants trading on a large scale, and they tried for exchange on a larger scale than usual. The natives carrying on trade with the merchants outside the sphere of British influence helped in the increase of ivory.

(C.) SHIPPING.

The shipping returns for the British Somaliland Protectorate show a decrease of 657 vessels and 38,041 tons:—

	1905-1906.		1906-1907.		1907-1908.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Entered	2,154	75,593	2,246	83,621	1,918	65,533
Cleared	2,152	75,411	2,245	84,458	1,916	64,505
Total	4,306	151,004	4,491	168,079	3,834	130,038

During these times of famine and scarcity competitive coasting steamers made fewer calls than they would have done in ordinary or prosperous times, the decrease of steamships entering and clearing being represented by 128 in number and 29,586 in tonnage. The resultant dwindling of trade carried by sailing vessels decreased the country crafts shipping and tonnage at Bulhar and Hais, the difference between 1906-1907 and 1907-1908 being 3,869 and 3,340 in number and 62,301 and 53,846 in tonnage, respectively.

The number and tonnage of steamers and sailing vessels entered and cleared during the year 1907-1908 was:—

				Steamers.		Sailing vessels.		Total.	
				No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Berbera—									
Entered	...	...		130	24,419	484	10,565	614	34,984
Cleared	...	...		130	24,419	482	9,537	612	33,956
Total	...			260	48,838	966	20,102	1,226	68,940
Bulhar—									
Entered	...	...		59	6,982	446	6,450	505	13,432
Cleared	...	...		59	6,982	446	6,450	505	13,432
Total	...			118	13,864	892	12,900	1,010	26,864
Hais—									
Entered	...	...		—	—	134	4,116	134	4,116
Cleared	...	...		—	—	134	4,116	134	4,116
Total	...			—	—	268	8,232	268	8,232
Zaila—									
Entered	...	...		58	6,695	607	6,306	665	13,001
Cleared	...	...		58	6,695	607	6,306	665	13,001
Total	...			116	13,390	1,214	12,612	1,330	26,002

The nationality of vessels entered and cleared during 1907-1908 for the British Somaliland Protectorate is made up thus:—

Nationality.				Entered.		Cleared.	
				No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	...	...	...	1,497	54,568	1,498	54,456
French	...	...	...	13	946	12	791
Italian	...	...	...	28	568	28	568
Turkish	...	...	...	5	1,105	4	999
Arab	...	...	...	374	3,237	373	7,582
Persian	...	...	...	1	109	1	109

(D.) HARBOUR DUES.

The total harbour dues collected at the port of Berbera during the year 1907-1908 are shown under the different headings:—

	Amount.
	Rs.
Port dues or tonnage dues	1,340
Licence and monthly fees for passenger boats	169
Licence and monthly fees for cargo boats	828
Total	2,337
Total collection for 1906-07	3,006
Decrease	669

(E.) INLAND TRADE.

The value of the inland trade registered at Berbera and Bulhar Zaribas for 1907-1908 was:—

	Amount
	Rs.
Berbera	15,79,249
Bulhar	12,71,766
Total value	28,51,015

REGISTRATION FEES.

The total revenue derived from registration fees in the Protectorate during the year 1907-1908 was collected as under:—

	Amount.
	Rs.
Berbera, Bulhar, and Hais:—	
Registration fees	16
Miscellaneous fees	23
Zaila, Registration fees	50
	89

Fees charged under Merchant Shipping Regulations, 1907-1908:—

	Rs.
Berbera—Bills of health	623
Other, miscellaneous	11
Total	634

Fees collected for fire-arms registration and stamping at Berbera for the year 1907-1908:—

	Amount. Rs.
Registration and stamping fees ...	12
Total ...	12

Fees charged for water supply 1907-1908:—

	Amount. Rs.
Water supply ...	33
Total ...	33

Statement of Customs collection in the Protectorate for the year 1907-1908, compared with the year 1906-1907:—

	Imports.	Exports	Zariba.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Refunds.	Balance.
1906-7.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Berbera and Bulhar	2,01,655	1,43,314	33,349	4,085*	3,82,403	13	3,82,390
Zaila	39,122	19,124	—	755†	59,001	—	59,001
Hais and Karam ..	7,336	5,896	—	75	13,307	—	13,307
Total	2,48,113	1,68,334	33,349	4,915	4,54,698	13	4,54,698
1907-8.							
Berbera and Bulhar	1,50,187	1,34,144	33,307	3,521‡	3,22,109	—	—
Zaila	23,048	16,081	—	432§	39,511	—	39,511
Hais and Karam ..	6,781	7,680	—	74	14,535	—	14,535
Total	1,79,966	1,57,865	34,307	4,027	3,76,155	—	—
Increase	—	—	958	—	—	—	—
Decrease	68,147	10,479	—	888	78,566	—	—

* Port dues Rs. 2,684, registration of vessels Rs. 427, and other receipts Rs. 974.

† Registration of vessels Rs. 314, and other receipts Rs. 441.

‡ Port dues Rs. 2,502, registration of vessels Rs. 17, and other receipts Rs. 1,002.

§ Registration of vessels Rs. 50, and other receipts Rs. 382.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF THE VALUE OF THE
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS IN THE SOMALI-
LAND PROTECTORATE, CLASSIFIED BY
GROUPS USED IN THE TRADE RETURNS OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM.

*Summary Statement of the value of the Imports and Exports
trade returns of the*

	Imports.			Exports.		
	From British Possessions.	From Foreign Countries.	Total	Domestic Produce.		
				To British Possessions.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco.						
A. Grain and flour	82,388	164	82,552	—	—	—
B. Meat, including animals for food ..	74	61	135	35,019	385	35,404
C. Other food and drink—						
(1) Non-dutiable	—	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Dutiable	36,588	8,250	44,838	16,921	3,185	20,106
D. Tobacco	2,485	2	2,487	—	—	—
Total Class I.	121,545	8,477	130,022	51,940	3,570	55,510
II.—Raw material and articles mainly unmanufactured.						
A. Coal, coke, and patent fuel	—	—	—	—	—	—
B. Iron ore, scrap iron, and steel	—	—	—	—	—	—
C. Other metallic ores	—	—	—	—	—	—
D. Wood and timber	—	—	—	260	23	282
E. Cotton	—	—	—	—	—	—
F. Wool	—	—	—	—	—	—
G. Other textile materials	—	—	—	—	—	—
H. Oil seeds, nuts, oil fat, and gum ..	1,692	—	1,692	7,962	18	7,980
I. Hides and undressed skins	—	—	—	123,064	1	123,065
J. Materials for paper-making	—	—	—	—	—	—
K. Miscellaneous	—	—	—	9,829	141	9,970
Total Class II.	1,695	—	1,695	140,915	182	141,097
III.—Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.						
A. Iron and steel, manufactures thereof ..	3,915	—	3,915	—	—	—
B. Other metals and manufactures thereof ..	16	—	16	—	—	—
C. Cutlery, hardware, implements and instruments	159	—	159	—	—	—
D. Telegraph cables and apparatus	—	—	—	—	—	—
E. Machinery	1,261	—	1,261	—	—	—
F. Ships (new)	—	—	—	—	—	—
G. Manufactures of wood and timber (including furniture)	3,160	161	3,321	—	—	—
H. Yarns and textile fabrics—						
(1) Cotton	59,034	647	59,681	—	—	—
(2) Wool	498	—	498	—	—	—
(3) Other material	213	—	213	—	—	—
I. Apparel	941	—	941	—	—	—
J. Chemicals, drugs, dyes, and colours ..	555	3	558	—	—	—
K. Leather, and manufactures thereof (including boots, and shoes, and gloves) ..	894	—	894	—	—	—
L. Earthenware and glass	489	110	599	—	—	—
M. Paper	—	—	—	—	—	—
N. Miscellaneous	2,058	—	2,058	—	—	—
Total Class III.	73,191	921	74,112	—	—	—
IV.—Miscellaneous and unclassified (including Parcel Post).						
Miscellaneous	16,405	1,046	17,451	1,920	1,150	3,070
Total Class IV.	16,405	1,046	17,451	1,920	1,150	3,070
V.—Bullion and specie.						
Bullion and specie	9,030	929	9,959	13,293	1,911	15,204
Total Class V.	9,030	929	9,959	13,293	1,911	15,204
Grand Total	221,866	11,373	233,239	208,069	6,813	214,881

in the Somaliland Protectorate classified by Groups used in the United Kingdom.

Exports—continued.					
Other than Domestic.			Total Exports.		
To British Possessions.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.	To British Possessions.	To Foreign Countries.	Total.
£	£	£	£	£	£
—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	35,019	385	35,404
—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	16,921	3,185	20,106
—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	51,940	3,570	55,510
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—	—	—	260	22	282
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—	—	—	7,962	18	7,980
—	—	—	123,064	1	123,065
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—	—	—	9,629	141	9,770
—	—	—	140,915	182	141,097
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(F.) LAND GRANTS.

No grants of land have been made during the year under report. Owing to the dry and arid nature of the soil and the irregular rainfall the Protectorate is generally unsuited to agriculture.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were enacted during the year under report:—

- “The Berbera and Bulhar Ports Ordinance, 1907.”
- “The Somaliland Game Preservation Ordinance, 1907.”
- “The Fees and Royalties Ordinance, 1907.”
- “The Customs Amendment Ordinance, 1907.”
- “The Zariba Dues Ordinance, 1907.”
- “The Berbera and Bulhar Ports Amendment Ordinance, 1908.”
- “The Foreign Deserters Ordinance, 1908.”

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY EDUCATION—MAIN FEATURES AND NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.

There are three Government Schools in the Protectorate, at Berbera, Bulhar, and Zaila. The pupils are children of the local Indian and Arab traders, with a few Somalis. Only Arabic is taught. There is a Roman Catholic Mission and Convent at Berbera, where Somali children receive a free education.

The children are taught to speak, read, and write English, and some of the pupils have obtained employment under Government as clerks and telegraphists.

Except for the instruction given by the Head of the Mission there is no secondary education, and industrial schools and training colleges do not exist.

The average attendance at the various schools is as follows:—

Berbera	...	...	...	...	71
Bulhar	...	...	...	...	34
Zaila	...	...	...	...	74

Cost of upkeep during the year is Rs. 1,551 12a. 0p.

At Zaila the average attendance of boys in the school is 32. The school is maintained by the Government and costs Rs. 750 per annum.

No serious attempt whatever has yet been made in Zaila to educate the natives. An Arab schoolmaster teaches the children to repeat the Koran in Arabic.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

The three principal towns on the coast, namely, Berbera, Bulhar, and Zaila, are each supplied with a General Hospital under civil charge. Besides these General Hospitals there is at the chief town of Berbera an Isolation Hospital, opened in October, 1906, for tubercular disease. Also there is a single-ward building, for the accommodation of patients suffering from smallpox. A disinfecting station has been available to meet contingencies. The station consists of two rooms and a caretaker's hut; it is furnished with a small "Clayton" disinfecter, capable of meeting all probable requirements.

The up-country hospitals are situated at Sheikh and Burao, respectively, and are of the nature of camp hospitals only. At the former place a civil as well as a military hospital exists, but this also is of the camp hospital type. A more permanent iron structure, capable of accommodating twenty beds, would more nearly meet the requirements of the station.

Sites have in the year been viewed, with the object of determining on a suitable spot for the establishment of a sanatorium in the higher country beyond the coast belt, where a water-supply would be available. Considerable difficulties would, however, have to be encountered in establishing more than a tent accommodation, as both the primary cost and upkeep of any building would have to be considered. An up-country sanatorium is not required in the winter months, as the coast climate is, at that time, neither excessively hot nor unsuited for sick persons generally.

The number of cases treated in the civil coast hospitals during the year was 10,458, as against 8,526 during the year 1906.

The daily average attendance of sick was 28, not including the old cases.

The number of indoor patients was 579, as against 492 admissions in 1906. There were 17 deaths in hospital, giving a percentage of 3.40 of deaths to those treated.

Berbera Hospitals.

The General Hospital consists of three wards, containing in all 42 beds, viz., a general ward, a police and prisoners' ward, and a female ward. A dispensary office, medical store, and subordinate quarters, with an outlying mortuary, complete this institution. The hospital was built about the year 1886, and is in a fair state of repair.

The Isolation Hospital.—This contains one large ward, and five small ones, with a kitchen and washhouse. The hospital, which is situated on a hill about a mile and a half from Berbera, is surrounded by an outer wall, which encloses the buildings, with some open-air terraces. The accommodation at present is for 40 beds, the full complement being 60. Water is conveyed by donkey transport from Berbera. This hospital, which was opened about two years ago, is at present used for the treatment of tubercular diseases exclusively. Very gratifying results have been obtained, with limited resources; out of 39 admissions during the year, 23 were cured, 2 were discharged, 3 remain at the end of the year, and 11 only died. No case was admitted except the most advanced and debilitated of those applying, as the funds available for treatment and attendance of a larger number were not available. A considerable factor in the good results obtained has been, no doubt, the high and dry site and the barren rock on which the hospital is built, which offers no suitable ground for the tubercle bacillus. Tuberculin Koch R. has proved highly satisfactory in those cases which have been treated with it at the hospital, though less successful with outside patients.

The quarantine station is situated on a hard sandy area of ground on the "spit" which runs along the outer side of the harbour, is well separated from the town, and generally well adapted for the purpose. Tents are available for emergencies and the disinfecting station is placed near the natural landing point where the camp would be pitched.

The Infectious Diseases Hospital is a single structure, partially surrounded by a wall, on the south-eastern extremity of the town. The thatched roof has been blown away and the structure is not in a good state of repair.

Bulhar Hospital.

This consists of a single ward holding six beds, and a dispensary to which it is attached. Quarters have during the year been erected close by for the hospital assistant in charge, together with latrine accommodation, which was badly needed. The hospital, which is constructed of reeds and plaster, is the chosen abode of large numbers of scorpions, owing to the nature of its construction, and might with advantage be rebuilt were funds available.

Zaila Hospital.

This hospital consists of three wards, capable of accommodating 38 patients in all. The hospital forms part of the fort at Zaila. The room space is sufficient, but the actual site is unsuitable for a hospital and a separate building on the sea frontage, between the Residency and the Customs, would be an advantage, if such a building could be secured. Tents are held in reserve at this hospital to meet any infectious outbreak, should one occur.

(B.) OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

No proper asylum exists, but a small room at the gaol in Berbera is made use of for the purpose of watching any case of insanity occurring among the criminal classes. There is no poor-house, but a poor fund, maintained by private subscriptions and administered by the District Officer, exists in Berbera.

There is no reformatory, but juvenile offenders are kept at the police station, and not in the regular gaol. There is no savings bank.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

The following table shows the strength and distribution of police, mounted and foot, on March 31st, 1908:—

Foot Police.

Station.	Superintendent of Police.	Jemadars	Non-com- missioned officers and men.
Berbera and Bulhar	1	3	137
Karam and Hais ...	—	1	25
Total	1	4	162

Mounted Police.

Berbera and Bulhar	—	1	35
--------------------	---	---	----

The police force of the Berbera, Bulhar, Hais, and Karam Districts, is under the District Officer, Berbera, to whom the Superintendent of Police is responsible. The whole cost of police including all salaries and personal emoluments amounted to Rs. 55,722 3*a.* 3*p.*

The cost of the prison amounted to Rs. 11,826 5*a.* 7*p.*

(B.) PRISONS.

During the year 1,465 prisoners were convicted by the Berbera and Bulhar courts; this is an increase of 21 on the preceding year. Prisoners sentenced by military or political courts are kept in the coast gaols to serve their sentences, but cases tried by these courts are not included in the ordinary criminal returns.

During the year two prisoners escaped and were not re-captured.

The following table shows the number of escapes during the past three years:—

Year.	Escapes.	Re-captures.
1905-6	9	2
1906-7	2	2
1907-8	2	—

The daily average of convicted prisoners in Berbera and Bulhar gaols was 170, against 173 in 1906-7.

Only one death took place amongst prisoners during the year under report.

The Zaila gaol is a small coral building roofed with tin and is under the direct supervision of the Sub-Commissioner.

It has not been found possible to render the labour of prisoners remunerative. Most of the so-called political prisoners are merely detained pending the restitution of animals looted by them or by their relations, and their expenses while so detained are recovered, when possible, from their tribe. Civil prisoners are not required to labour, but are merely taken out for exercise; their expenses while detained in prison are generally recovered from the judgment creditor at whose instance they are detained.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

There were 1,198 summary convictions in the subordinate court and 3 convictions in the higher court during 1907-8.

A comparative statement of cases reported taken at the Berbera and Bulhar Courts during the last 5 years is appended:—

Year.	Cases reported	Convictions or Committals.
1903-4	No statistics available	
1904-5	991	774
1905-6	1,457	1,241
1906-7	1,569	1,392
1907-8	1,489	1,201

Of the 1,489 cases, 128 appear under the head of "Other Offences," which include breach of local rules and other minor offences, leaving 1,361 cases, to come under the heading of crimes. In 1906-7 there were 966 cases under the heading of

"Other Offences," leaving 603 under crime. There has therefore been an increase of 758 cases of crime during the year. This is chiefly due to the large increase of vagrants sent weekly from Aden.

During the year under review, there was no case of murder.

A comparative statement of serious crimes is appended:—

Crime.	Convictions.	
	1906-7.	1907-8.
Rape	5	—
Murder	2	—
Robbery	170	285
Grievous Hurt	5	3
Riot	31	—
Forgery	2	—

The convictions in the Protectorate Court and District Court for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.	Protectorate Court.	District Court
1903-4	No statistics available	
1904-5	2	772
1905-6	3	1,225
1906-7	4	1,388
1907-8	3	1,198

The Protectorate Court returns show cases tried before His Majesty's Commissioner, and the District Court figures represent cases tried in Berbera and Bulhar Districts, High and Subordinate Courts.

There was no appeal against the decision of the Sub-Commissioner during the year. As a matter of fact there is no criminal population in Zaila. Most of the offences committed are assaults and are not of a serious character.

Bad characters from Djibouti turn up occasionally, also from Berbera.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

Return of the Statistics of the population for the Year.

—	Europeans and whites.	Somalis.	Indians.	Arabs.	Mixed.	—
Number of inhabitants in 1906.	65	300,000	200	300	100	Approximate.
Births, 1907	—	—	—	—	—	Unknown.
Deaths, 1907	—	—	—	—	—	Unknown.
Immigrants, 1907	13	3,447	—	—	—	
Emigrants, 1907	—	3,607	—	—	—	
Inhabitants, 1907	78	300,000	200	300	100	
Increase	13	—	—	—	—	
Decrease	—	—	—	—	—	

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

Population.—No census has ever been taken. The population is increasing, but not in geometrical ratio, even at the present time, when the general conditions are favourable. The increase may be more correctly estimated as in arithmetical ratio to the means of subsistence.

The birth-rate is approximately 10 per cent. on the coast among the married women.

No census has ever been taken in Zaila. The number of inhabitants in the hot season, that is from May to September, averages about 4,000, and during the remainder of the year about 6,500 to 7,000. The majority of the inhabitants are Somalis, Arabs, Indians, and Jews; no register of births and deaths of natives is kept.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general public health of the Protectorate during the year has been good, and no serious disease has occurred. This may in part be referred to the improved sanitary condition of the town of Berbera, which will be dealt with under the general sanitary condition of the Protectorate.

As regards the table of diseases, it should be borne in mind that there exists a difference between the winter and summer numbers of the population on the coast. In the winter there are some 20,000 to 30,000 natives collected at the coast town of Berbera alone. In the summer these numbers drop to some 3,000 to 4,000. This variation is dependent on climatic conditions, affecting the supply of fodder for stock, and the conditions of trade generally.

The periods when sickness is chiefly prevalent are the spring and autumn, in consequence chiefly of the lack of wool clothing among the natives, who use cotton almost exclusively, with a blanket at night when they can get it. The experience of the last three years has been that it is impossible to provide blankets for the hospital patients, as they are invariably smuggled out and sold. The usual excuse is that the blanket was stolen while the patient was asleep; but it would appear that nearly 50 per cent. of the patients steal hospital property entrusted for their use. A considerable degree of care is called for in preventing the importation of infectious diseases, both from the interior of Africa generally, and from Abyssinia in particular. The rice ports of India and the date-exporting centres along the Persian Gulf have also to be watched in this respect.

The native Somali is essentially temperate and seems naturally liable to few diseases. When ill they, as a race, are inclined to disregard the matter. To travel from the locality where they happen to be at the time is looked upon as a universal panacea.

During the year an arrangement has been come to with the authorities at Aden, whereby inoculation certificates will be

made use of when any outbreak of plague occurs at Aden. It has been arranged that such certificates shall exempt from quarantine on the Somali coast.

Malarial Fever.

The returns from the united coast hospitals show that malaria is on the increase. The figures are as follows:—

In 1904	9 cases	are recorded.
In 1905	117	„ „
In 1906	539	„ „
In 1907	751	„ „

The causes leading to this condition of affairs are:—

- (1) The increase of vegetation in the neighbourhood of the dwelling houses, which was referred to last year.
- (2) The existing drainage system, which is but a slight improvement on the one existing at the beginning of the year, and is not satisfactory.
- (3) The lack of measures to prevent the natives from digging or using wells in the native part of the towns.

Dysentery.

The number of cases was 135, as against 62 last year, and 117 in 1905. As in previous years, all the cases were of a very mild type.

Malignant and Non-malignant growths.

No cases of malignant growth or suspected malignancy were reported, and only three cases of non-malignant growths, these being Mycetomata.

Beri-Beri.

Three cases have occurred in the local jail. Recommendations have been made dealing with the matter and the general sanitary condition of the jail.

Diseases of the Skin.

The greater number of these patients were suffering from scabies, which was almost epidemic during the year.

Syphilis.

The total number of cases of this disease presented for treatment was only 77. This figure is particularly misleading where any estimation of its prevalence is concerned. The disease has, during the year, increased very greatly, but usually only the very advanced cases present themselves for treatment, and

those who are also very poor. The reason for this is that, all who can afford to do so, journey to a small spot, on the Arabian coast, named Sheikh Mohil, situated about a day and a half marching journey from Mocha, which is the usual landing port for those proceeding to the place. The treatment at Sheikh Mokil is conducted on the water cure principle. The water is drunk on the first day or so, afterwards the treatment is chiefly confined to bathing frequently. The patients are allowed goats' meat and milk, sweet oil, and rice, and two ounces of dates when the cure has shown signs of progressing favourably. The following articles of diet are not allowed, namely, the meat or milk of either camel, sheep, or cow. The matter is considered worth recording, as very unusual and speedy cures have come under notice.

Tubercular Disease.

These diseases are fairly frequently met with. There were 68 cases in all treated, with 12 deaths. The figures of those treated in hospital were 39 cases, 11 deaths, and 3 remaining in hospital at the end of the year, and three discharged improved.

Poisons.

These cases all relate to snake bites, stings, or to injuries inflicted by fish. No deaths were recorded.

(C.) SANITATION.

General Sanitary Condition of the Protectorate and Chief Towns.

The dry climate on the coast is the most important natural sanitary factor. Owing to the natural scarcity of water, pollution of the supply, which is mainly derived from wells, is comparatively easily avoided. Neither of these two factors is, however, made the most of. The necessary outlay, and upkeep of any public improvements, does not meet with favour among the native population generally. The walling in of wells, street regulation and cleaning, the disposal of surface drainage, &c., may all be regarded as probably meeting opposition.

Berbera.

This, the chief town, is divided into a European and native allotment, situated at some distance from one another. During the present year, the European quarter has been further freed from the numerous and insanitary Indian subordinates' quarters, which occupied the immediate neighbourhood of the Government offices. The Indian subordinates have been provided for in suitably spacious and conveniently arranged quarters, which, however, lack suitable ventilation, and a water drainage system.

The principle to be commended for the whole of the European and Indian subordinate locations, is that of the dry-earth closet system, with a separate closed waste water drainage connected in the subordinate quarters with the bath, and in the European quarter with the houses both at the bath and at the pantry or cook's house.

The considerable extension of the garden area, in the immediate neighbourhood of the dwelling houses, both of the European, as well as in part of the native town, is, as was pointed out in last year's report, unwise. In the absence of drainage, trees near the houses are a source of danger, since they increase the dampness of the ground. On the other hand, scattered trees, other than palms, may advantageously be planted at a short distance from houses.

Bulhar and Zaila.

These towns are supplied by brackish wells, mostly at a distance from the towns themselves. The water is liable to produce symptoms of diarrhoea among those unaccustomed to its use. The impurities are chiefly salt and sand. The houses and drainage are greatly in need of attention.

Inland Posts.

The posts at Sheikh, Burao, and Ber have all a fair, but limited water supply. At the former place improvements have been effected, and bungalows put up for the officers in charge.

(D.) CLIMATE.

The climate of the Somaliland Protectorate, is a naturally dry and uniform one. Both the diurnal variations and the changes of the seasons maintain a regularity of mean variation that is remarkable.

There are two distinct seasons, the hot, from May to September, when the coast belt becomes almost true desert, and the cool season from October to April.

Temperature.

There are two ranges of temperature. These maintain a pretty uniform relation the one to the other. The coast range of temperature exists over nearly a fifty mile belt inland, reaching to the hills, and is some 10° F. above the second, or Highland, temperature.

The extremes of temperature recorded at Berbera were, lowest (shade minimum) 45° F. in March; highest (shade maximum) 110° occurring in both June and July.

The mean temperature was 80° F. at Berbera, and the mean daily range 28° F.

Rainfall.

The rainfall for the year, as recorded at Berbera, was .94 of an inch only.

Direction and Force of Wind.

The direction of the wind is from the north-east from November to April, and from the south-west from May to September, this latter wind often being of considerable force.

Abnormal Phenomena.

No abnormal phenomena were recorded as having occurred.

VIII.—GENERAL.

Statement showing the number of game animals of each species killed under licence in this Protectorate during the year 1907:—

Greater Kudu	...	...	...	...	11
Lesser Kudu	...	...	...	...	11
Oryx	...	...	...	...	22
Hartebeeste	...	...	...	...	11
Waller's Gazelle	...	...	...	...	34
Soemering's Gazelle	...	...	...	...	68
Speke's and Pelzeln's Gazelle	...	...	...	...	73
Clarke's Gazelle	...	...	...	...	8
Klipspringer	...	...	...	...	13
Baira	...	...	...	...	7
Dik Dik	...	...	...	...	81
Wart Hog	...	...	...	...	11
Ostrich, Female (confiscated)	...	...	...	...	1
G. Bustard	...	...	...	...	1
Lion	...	...	...	...	5
Leopard	...	...	...	...	9
Cheetah	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	...	367

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's
Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from
the sources indicated on the title-page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
553	St. Lucia	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906-1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar	"
564	Ashanti	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907-1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907
567	Seychelles	"
568	Bermuda	"
569	Wei-hai-wei	"
570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta	1907-1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907-1908
575	Bahamas	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent... ..	1907-1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907
579	St. Lucia	"
580	Fiji	"
581	Mauritius	"
582	Straits Settlements	"
583	Southern Nigeria	"
584	Imperial Institute... ..	1906-1907
585	Barbados	1907-1908

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
49	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907-08.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's visit to Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.

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1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS —ANNUAL.

No. 540.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1906.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 502.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1907.



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No. 540.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 502).

THE GOVERNOR to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

Singapore,

September 5, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of the Report on the Straits Settlements for the year 1906.

I have, &c.,

JOHN ANDERSON.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine,

K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,

&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1906.

FINANCIAL.

The revenue for 1906 amounted to \$9,618,314,* that of each Settlement being shown in the following table:—

					\$
Singapore	...	...	...	...	6,043,618
Penang	...	...	...	...	2,866,816
Malacca	...	...	...	...	707,880

These figures show that there was a decrease of \$2,039,110 as compared with the revenue collected in 1905, and one of \$1,128,203 as compared with the corresponding sum in 1904. The revenue proper was less than that of 1905 and 1904 by \$692,684 and \$1,211,898, respectively.

Increased receipts appear under:—

					\$
Stamps	...	...	...	...	69,330
Post Office and Telegraphs	...	...	...	...	38,723
Rents	...	...	...	...	13,766

while decreases are shown under:—

					\$
Land Sales	...	...	...	...	1,346,426
Reimbursements	...	...	...	...	474,167
Licences	...	...	...	...	214,839
Interest	...	...	...	...	97,274
District Collections	...	...	...	...	35,312

The large decreases in respect of the first two items are explained by the facts that in 1905 the proceeds of the sale of the Malacca-Pulau Sebang Railway (for \$1,414,218) were credited to Land Sales, and the accumulated balance of the Widows and Orphans' Pension Fund, transferred to Government (amounting to \$470,141), was included under the heading "Reimbursements." The lower revenue from licences is due to the concession made to the opium and spirit farmers in allowing them to defer the payment of a portion of their rents.

The total expenditure in 1906 was \$9,333,901, as compared with \$10,976,525 and \$10,848,989 in 1905 and 1904, respectively. The following table shows the amounts by which the

* Subject to audit.

expenditure on the chief items of the estimates fell below the corresponding figures for 1905:—

	\$
Public Works, special services ...	1,172,471
Special expenses ...	642,354
Lands and houses purchased ...	294,975
Defence contribution ...	160,506

The expenditure on public works was less than in 1905 owing to the postponement of several large items, while the expenditure in 1905, in respect of special expenses and lands and houses purchased, was abnormal, being due to the payment from general revenue of a sum of \$747,581 to the Currency Commissioners, to cover in part the depreciation of securities held by them on account of the Currency Note issue, and to the purchase of the Excise Farm Buildings in Singapore, respectively.

EXCHANGE.

The appreciation of the dollar, due to the restriction of the circulation between 1904 and 1906, gave rise to considerable speculation on exchange. It was certain that the exchange value of the dollar would continue to rise until the point was reached at which it could be fixed with safety, and all classes of people began to speculate for this rise. The rate naturally rose still more rapidly towards the end of 1905, and in January, 1906, it was decided that the dollar should be fixed at the rate of \$60 for £7 sterling, or 2s. 4d. to the dollar.

This was effected on the 29th February, on which day Ordinance I. of 1906, authorising the Currency Commissioners to give notes in exchange for gold against telegraphic transfer in favour of the Crown Agents, was passed at one sitting, and an Order in Council published fixing, as above, the rate at which the Commissioners might receive gold for notes. From the date of the issue of this Order the demand rate continued fairly uniform, the maximum and minimum rates for the remainder of the year being 2s. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. and 2s. 4d., respectively.

Gold was first tendered to the Commissioners in March, and by the end of August the amount in their hands had reached £954,730. On the 14th September, Ordinance XXIII. of 1906 was passed, enabling the Commissioners to issue gold in exchange for notes and sell telegraphic transfers payable in London by the Crown Agents against notes received in Singapore. The sovereign was made legal tender in the Colony by proclamation of the 20th November under an Order of His Majesty the King in Council dated 22nd October, 1906, the dollar, however, remaining the standard coin.

CURRENCY.

Bar silver continued to appreciate during the first-half of the year, until the margin between the intrinsic and nominal

values of the Straits dollar became so small that it was necessary to obtain His Majesty's Government's sanction to a reduction in the size of the dollar, in order that if the margin disappeared the Straits dollar should not leave the Colony. The reduction decided upon was one of 25 per cent., the fineness of the coin being retained at 900, and its weight reduced to 312 grains.

Several consignments of Straits dollars were despatched to England for the purpose of being re-minted in accordance with this decision, but none of the new dollars had been delivered by the end of the year. These dollars were, to a great extent, taken from the balance in the hands of the Currency Commissioners, so that as little inconvenience as possible might be caused to the trade of the Colony. In addition to using these balances, however, notes of the value of \$1 each were also printed and brought into circulation. There was therefore but little inconvenience, more especially as the law relating to currency notes was amended to make the one-dollar notes legal tender for any amount. This small note has proved a popular one.

The sovereign was also made legal tender in the Colony, mainly with the object of enabling the Currency Commissioners to prevent any drain on the silver reserve, of which the greater part was being remitted to England for re-coinage.

At the beginning of the year the dollars and notes in circulation, including the stocks held by the banks, and the treasuries in the Federated Malay States, amounted to \$54,136,722, of which \$17,353,710 were Government currency notes, \$1,408,731 bank notes, and the rest Straits dollars. At the end of the year the corresponding figures were \$58,721,096, \$22,222,560, and \$1,124,255, respectively.

The excess of exports of dollars over the quantity of that coin imported was \$844,672 for Singapore and \$611,880 for Penang, in all an excess of \$1,456,552, as against an excess of \$3,557,902 in 1905. No account is taken in these figures of small quantities of dollars taken away from or brought into the Colony by passengers. The greater part of the exports was to Sumatra.

In Singapore subsidiary silver coin to the value of \$796,301 was withdrawn from circulation. The rise in the value of the Straits dollar over the parity of the British and Mexican dollars had caused the return of large quantities of Straits subsidiary coin, which had circulated in China and elsewhere at an equal value with the local subsidiary currency. As soon as the rise in the exchange value of the Straits dollar became such that it paid to return this subsidiary coin, so much of it flowed into the Colony that the supply became too great for the needs of the place, and it was to relieve this congestion that the Government withdrew the amount in question from circulation. No copper coin was imported during the year.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1906.

The average bank note circulation was \$1,329,053, as compared with \$1,866,215 in 1905. The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation continued the reduction of their note issue.

MUNICIPAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of the three Municipalities amounted to \$3,214,971, and their expenditure, including sums spent on Loan Works, to \$3,245,299.

TRADE.

The trade of 1906 was not generally satisfactory, though exports in dollar values largely increased, and both exports and imports increased in sterling.

A continuous rise in home prices tended to restrict sales, as goods had to be parted with below the value of replacement, in order to prevent congestion of stocks, which are larger generally than they have been for many years.

Dollar imports of merchandise decreased by over one-half per cent., but export values rose by over 6 per cent.

The rise in sterling exchange of over 14 per cent. resulted in a large increase in the sterling value of over 13½ per cent. in imports and 21 per cent. in exports.

Singapore imported 72·3 per cent. of the whole dollar value, a decline of ·7 per cent.; Penang, 27·3 per cent., a rise of ·4 per cent.; and Malacca the balance.

In exports, Singapore contributed 69·3 per cent., a decline of 2·3 per cent.; Penang, 30·1 per cent., an advance of 2·2 per cent.; and Malacca the remainder.

Statistics of the land traffic between Negri Sembilan and Malacca have been inserted for the first time, but the rail traffic between Penang and Perak is not included.

The value of the Colony's trade with outside places is as follows, the Inter-Settlement trade being excluded :—

—					1905.	1906.
Merchandise :—					\$	\$
Imports	...	...	...	...	319,776,549	317,850,836
Exports	...	...	...	...	265,184,613	281,273,455
Total	...	...	...	...	584,961,162	599,124,291
Treasure :—						
Imports	...	...	...	...	12,457,367	21,457,455
Exports	...	...	...	...	17,776,172	29,732,354
Total	...	...	...	...	30,233,539	51,189,809
Gross Total	...	...	...	...	\$615,194,701	\$650,314,100

The imports of merchandise from the United Kingdom were 11·1 per cent. of the whole, an increase of ·6 per cent., and the exports 23·6 of the total, an advance of 2·2 per cent.

British Possessions and Protectorates sent 46·7 of the value received, and took 24·9 of the export value, a decrease of ·7 per cent. in imports, and a rise of ·3 per cent. in exports.

Foreign countries account for 42·2 per cent. in value of goods consigned here, and 51·5 per cent. of goods taken; an advance of ·1 per cent. in imports, and a decrease in exports of 2·5 per cent.

The Colony, with the Federated Malay States, British North Borneo, and Sarawak, is now possessed of a gold standard, and Siam having previously taken this step, only China and Hong Kong are left with silver currencies; therefore, a statement showing the trade according to gold and silver currency countries (as in past years) is no longer of interest.

Taking the twelve principal articles of produce as exported, viz.:—Tin, gambir, pepper, copra, coffee, hides, sago, rattans, tapioca, gutta, Borneo rubber and India rubber, and gum copal, it is seen that 306,500 tons were sent off, a decrease of 11,000 tons, but if copra, which is remarkable for the fluctuation in its movements, is excluded, an increase, of 6,850 tons results.

Values of produce, when viewed on the basis of the last five years, have generally fallen except in tin and tapioca, declines being especially marked in the prices of pepper, gambir, and gutta percha.

IMPORT VALUES AND QUANTITIES.

The gross imports into the three Settlements were valued at over 352½ million dollars (£41,129,000), an advance of nearly 7½ million dollars; but treasure alone rose by 8¼ millions, so that merchandise showed a fall of over one million and a quarter dollars.

The Class "Foods, Drinks, and Narcotics," decreased by two million dollars, the principal decreases being in the values of opium, sugar, fish (dry and salted), lard, salt, beans, and teas, and drugs and chemicals.

Advances were recorded in the values of tapioca, live animals, spices, padi, tobacco and cigars, milk, onions and garlic, bran, wines, tea, and spirits.

Imports of rice into the Colony show about the same quantity as in 1905, 451,000 tons, with a value of over 30½ million dollars (also much the same), 89·4 per cent. of the quantity being re-exported, an increased proportion of 8¼ per cent.

Burmese supplies decreased, but Siam and French Indo-China sent more than the deficiency.

Opium received reached 12,658 chests, a decrease of $302\frac{1}{2}$ chests, of which $82\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. were re-exported, in addition to over 25,000 lbs. of the manufactured article.

It is to be noted the quantity sent to Johore is not included in these export figures, and that 921 chests, transhipped here chiefly to Java and Siam, are not inserted in the statistics.

Nearly 72,000 tons of sugar were received; an increase of 9,000 tons, but the value declined by nearly a million dollars owing to lower prices. Of this amount over 83 per cent. was sent out again, besides 14,000 tons of locally-manufactured sugar-candy.

The quantity of dry and salted fish received reached over 55,000 tons, a trifle more than the 1905 import, but the total value fell by \$822,000.

Imported wheat flour reached 27,438 tons; an increase of 3,733 tons. This market has been captured by Australia, the transfer of the greater portion of the trade from the Pacific coast having originated with the Chinese boycott of American goods; but the market has been much over-stocked and prices were sometimes less than those quoted in Australia.

Provisions, tinned goods, fresh meat, butter, cheese, milk, hams, and biscuits were valued at nearly six million dollars; an increase of \$125,000. Over a million of this was oilman's stores; a decrease of \$64,000, and $2\frac{1}{4}$ millions, mostly of Eastern foods under dry and salted provisions, give an increase of \$84,000.

Biscuits imported came to \$443,000; an increase of \$38,000, of which total, 87 per cent. was British, an increase of \$12,000.

Hams and bacons were imported to the extent of \$171,000; a decrease of \$21,000, the United Kingdom supplying $62\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the imports, or nearly all the consignments from Europe.

Butter and cheese were brought in to a value of \$347,000, a decrease of \$4,000. Australia supplied $37\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.; a decrease of \$6,000, and, except a small import from Bombay, the Continent sent the remainder.

Condensed and other tinned milks imported reached 186,500 cases, valued at close on $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars; an increase of 39,000 cases and \$126,000. More than three-fourths of the total is Swiss condensed milk, and prices are cut very fine.

Of spirits, excluding liqueurs, 1,130,000 gallons were brought in, valued at nearly $2\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars, or a slight reduction in quantity but \$66,000 more in value. Native liquor accounted for 353,500 gallons, a decrease of 29,000. Whisky showed 150,000 gallons, an increase of 15,300; brandy, 270,000, an increase of 41,000; gin, 316,000, a decrease of 37,000; and rum, 32,000, an increase of 6,000. Sales of gin were fairly good, and much on a par with 1905, though

returned goods from the Celebes somewhat weakened the market; brandy on the whole met with a good demand.

Imports of malt liquor reached 890,000 gallons, valued at over $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, an increase of 3,200 gallons in quantity but a fall in value of \$63,000. Ale and beer in bottle and bulk accounted for 717,000 gallons of the total, a decrease of 18,000 gallons, and porter and stout for the remainder. Although beer and ale in bulk fell off, there were increased sales of British bottled beer.

The Class "Raw Materials" increased by $1\frac{1}{3}$ million dollars, metals (including tin) advancing by nearly $1\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars, the Produce Class decreasing by \$145,000, and raw textiles by \$108,000. The articles in detail are more conveniently treated under exports.

The Class "Manufactured Articles" shows a fall in the total of \$627,000.

Textiles contributed a decline of $1\frac{1}{3}$ million dollars; metals an advance of \$800,000; and miscellaneous manufactures a fall of \$88,000.

Cotton piece-goods were imported to the extent of 5,400,000 pieces, an increase of nearly 600,000, the value reaching considerably over $17\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, an increase of 666,000. The United Kingdom supplied over $4\frac{1}{2}$ million pieces, valued at about 15 million dollars, an increase of over half-a-million pieces, and three-quarters of a million dollars, or $13\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in quantity, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in dollar value. Continental imports reached 466,000 pieces, valued at over $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, an increase of 23,000 pieces. Supplies from Indian mills increased by 10,000 pieces, and Eastern imports by 32,000 pieces. Grey yarn imported shows 14,295 bales, a small decline in quantity; but only half the 1905 quantity from the United Kingdom was sent in 1906, Indian spinners rapidly ousting the United Kingdom from this trade. Of dyed yarn 13,304 bales were received, an increase of 1,806 bales, of which total 10,103 bales were from the United Kingdom (an increase of 2,060), while the Continent sent 2,844 bales, a decline of 32. Although Swiss dyes find a market, they are not in favour on their merits, but business is attracted owing to misleading tickets regarding lengths. There was a heavy fall in cotton blankets brought in, only 301,000 pieces, comparing with 556,000 in the previous year, and an average of 538,000 for the previous five years. While the buying powers of the natives are not sufficient to go in largely for woollen blankets, makes, chiefly Continental, but superior to the ordinary wick blanket, find favour. Of the important class included under apparel, hosiery, millinery, &c., the value received was about $3\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars, a decrease of nearly \$320,000. The United Kingdom showed a rise of over \$204,000, with a total of nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, while Germany, with about the same total, fell by \$236,000, and other Continental supplies also fell off. Japan improved its

position in this class by \$60,000, but other consignments declined. Sarongs, Slendangs, and Kains showed 303,000 corges, of 20 pieces each, imported, a decrease of 44,000, valued at $5\frac{1}{3}$ million dollars, a fall of $1\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars. About 81,000 corges were received from the United Kingdom, a decrease of over 40,000, and 80,000 corges from the Continent, a decrease of 9,000; but Indian imports increased, while Java supplies remained stationary. The demand for this class was fairly large, but poor prices were realised. Woollen blankets have not been a good market, for reasons above stated. Hats and caps valued at \$427,000 were imported, an increase of \$29,000, increasing British values meeting Italian declines. About 230,000 pieces of silk cloth were brought in, valued at close on $2\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, an increase of 13,000 pieces and \$94,000; European manufactures of this class continuing to fall off and Eastern to increase.

The import of umbrellas was valued at over half-a-million dollars, a decrease of \$46,000. Supplies from the United Kingdom increased by \$64,000, and French imports by \$10,000; but Eastern productions showed less value by \$113,000.

Over 20,000 pieces of woollen cloth of different kinds entered the market, valued at considerably over half-a-million dollars, a decrease of 2,000 pieces and \$27,000, the United Kingdom sending 1,500 pieces less and Germany 500 pieces more. Jute gunny bags from Calcutta were valued at over $4\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, an increase of \$600,000. The value of sewing thread showed a decrease of \$104,000, orders from home not being met owing to great pressure in the mills.

Manufactured metals of European origin amounted to roughly over 9 million dollars in value, an increase of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Of this total, the United Kingdom sent about \$6,140,000, or 68 per cent., the Continent of Europe over $2\frac{1}{2}$ million, or 28 per cent., and the United States of America \$354,000, or 4 per cent. These figures show an increase of \$342,000 from the Mother Country, \$240,000 from the Continent, and a decline of \$6,000 from the United States of America. In 1905, however, there was imported (principally for railway construction in Johore territory, and, strictly speaking, a transshipment trade) a very large value, and, if this be taken off to show the goods marketed, the increase in the United Kingdom portion of the imports would be nearly a million dollars, compared with increases from the Continent and the United States of America of \$274,000 and \$22,000, respectively.

The chief advances from the United Kingdom are seen in hardware and ironware, machinery, cycles, and motor cars, and telegraph and telephone materials.

Hardware and ironware, machinery and iron bars, and nail rod give the principal advances from the Continent, and machinery from the United States of America. Tramway and railway materials and corrugated iron were the principal

decreases from the United Kingdom, telegraph and telephone materials, those from the Continent, and most other metals, except machinery, cycles, and motor cars, declined from the United States.

The profits on standard metals such as bar and corrugated iron, tin plates, and sheathings, have been cut so fine that some firms content themselves with doing a commission indent business instead of taking the risks of stocks, and the growth of this system is apparent. The large imports of corrugated iron in 1905 resulted in large stocks which had to be drawn on at cut prices, and it was not till the close of the year that an improvement took place. Notwithstanding the increased import of tin plates, owing to the expansion of the pineapple and oil industries, stocks were short at the close, and prices which had not been satisfactory hitherto advanced rapidly. It was a fair year for other metals so far as regards overturn.

British makes of motor cars are steadily advancing on French productions, which have hitherto taken the lead.

Miscellaneous hard goods give evidence of declines generally, except in earthenware and crockery, matches, carriages, and carriage materials, perfumery, lamps and lampware, and musical instruments.

Reduced values are seen in cement, tanned hides, paints, joss sticks, and paperware, followed by Japanware and candles.

From the United Kingdom over 100,000 more casks of cement were received, while the Continent sent 70,000 less. The trade showed a profit all through the year owing to home advances, but if these continue to rise, a promising field is opened for the Hong Kong cement.

Dynamite rose in quantity from Germany, but decreased from the United Kingdom. Owing to accepted tenders from the Federated Malay States and other causes, it is expected the Anglo-Swedish brand will show much better next year.

Values of clocks and watches from the Continent fell off, as well as from the United Kingdom, but Japanese and American makes were more to the front.

Imports of earthenware, including crockery, rose from the United Kingdom by \$71,000, but the Continent increased by over that amount, Holland and Belgium showing important advances.

Fancy goods, toys, and sporting materials exhibited a slight fall from the United Kingdom, German and Austrian consignments rising a little in value.

Glassware imports fell off from the United Kingdom by \$10,000, but rose from the Continent by \$35,000.

The market in paints was not quite up to former years, more caution being evinced in giving credits to dealers in this class of goods, but the trade actually done was fairly remunerative. All sources of supply showed declines in the value shipped here.

Burma has displaced Belgium and Holland in supplying this market with candles; out of the total trade \$165,000, no less than \$115,000 being received from Rangoon. The Burma candle is stiffer and altogether a better article than that of Continental make.

Perfumery imports increased from the United Kingdom and the Continent, but fell off from the United States.

While carriages and carriage materials from the Continent fell off by one-half or \$6,000, values from the United Kingdom rose to \$161,000, an increase of \$35,000, and the United States accounted for a trade of \$42,000, an increase of \$6,000.

European paper and stationery rose in the case of the United Kingdom to \$546,000, an advance of \$5,000, but, although Continental manufactures fell off by \$7,000, the total exceeded that of the Mother Country by \$88,000. The United States sent a value of \$31,000, a decrease of \$74,000.

Musical instruments increased in value from the United Kingdom by \$37,000, and from the Continent by \$18,000.

Boots and shoes from the United Kingdom were valued at \$242,000, an increase of \$69,000, and from the Continent at \$39,000, a decrease of \$8,000. American consignments reached a value of only \$5,000, or less than half the 1905 value.

Saddlery and leatherware shewed expansion in British makes, a value of \$127,000, representing an increase of \$35,000; but Continental supplies also rose by \$30,000, American and Indian shipments falling off.

Lamps and lampware, with a total trade of over half-a-million dollars, give an increase of over \$78,000, the United Kingdom being responsible for an advance of \$50,000, the Continent for \$71,000 more, Eastern and American imports declining in value.

Of the 3,077 tons of soap and soda received, the Mother Country sent 2,460 tons, a decrease of 70; Australia sending 38 tons more. Toilet soap from the Continent increased in value by \$5,000.

Matches shew 82,000 cases received, an increase of 10,000, nearly all of Japanese make.

Photographic materials imported came to \$74,000, an increase of \$5,000, of which the United Kingdom sent to the value of \$56,000, and the Continent to the value of \$14,000, being increases of \$5,000 in both cases; but the United States sent over \$4,000 less in value.

The raw materials which may be treated as imports are coal, petroleum, tin ore, and raw sago.

Imports of coal were 753,918 tons, and in addition there were 5,000 tons of patent fuel brought in, an increase of 117,000 tons. The United Kingdom sent 85,000 tons of coal and 5,000 tons of patent fuel, a total increase of 23,500; Australia 219,000 tons, an increase of 152,000; Bengal over

323,000 tons, an increase 118,000; Borneo and Sarawak 13,000 tons, an increase of 7,500; and Tongkin 10,400 tons, an advance of 5,500. From Japan only 85,000 tons were received, a fall of 176,000; and from Dutch Borneo 17,500 tons, a decrease of over 5,000.

Imports of petroleum in bulk and cases represented over $9\frac{1}{10}$ million gallons, an increase of 712,000 gallons. Sumatran oil is principally responsible for the advance, American increasing by 144,000 gallons only, while no imports came from Burma, which sent 816,000 gallons in the previous year. Besides these imports 44,000 tons of bulk oil were declared for transshipment, an increase of 8,500 tons. Liquid fuel from Dutch Borneo reached over 39,000 tons, an increase of 13,000, and from Sumatra 744 tons, a decrease of 3,321. Of benzine 33,000 gallons were imported, an increase of 11,000, and from the United States of America 5,000 gallons, an increase of 2,000; in addition 12,000 tons were declared for transshipment, an advance of 4,500 tons.

Imports of tin ore reached over 52,000 tons, a decrease of 4,300; while imports from the Federated Malay States fell off, Australia and the Dutch Islands sent increased supplies.

About 14,600 tons of raw sago were imported for milling purposes, a decline of about 1,250 tons.

EXPORT VALUES AND QUANTITIES.

The gross exports from the three Settlements reached nearly $324\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars (£37,853,000), an advance of $28\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars; but treasure exported increased by nearly 12 millions, so that the increase in merchandise was about $16\frac{1}{4}$ millions.

The class "Foodstuffs, Drinks, and Narcotics" increased by over $4\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, seen chiefly in rice, areca-nuts, and tapioca, the largest decline being in opium.

Raw materials rose in value by $7\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars, but the metal (tin) class alone advanced by close on 8 millions. Tin exports amounted to 59,091 tons, an increase of 213 tons. Declines in quantities of the refined article were visible from the Federated Malay States, shewing a fall of 1,600 tons and in ore as above stated. Singapore imports of tin and ore, taken at 70 per cent., shew imports and exports within 140 tons of each other, but Penang exports are larger than the imports on the same basis by 715 tons. The Singapore average price for the year was \$89.90 per $133\frac{1}{3}$ lbs., an increase of $11\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. About $57\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the whole was sent to the United Kingdom and nearly $25\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to the United States. Increased shipments were despatched to the United Kingdom and Austria only; exports to nearly all other places decreased.

Exports of produce, though generally somewhat larger in volume, have been in a stagnant position for some years past.

Taking the previous five years as a basis for averages, the quantities of tin, pepper, sago, hides, gum copal, and Borneo rubber exported rose, but tapioca, coffee, gutta percha, and rattans declined. The total of spices reached 79,221 tons, an increase of 8,798, and of gums 31,321, an increase of 1,889, as compared with 1905.

Para rubber, coconut oil, gutta percha, planks, illipi and ground-nuts, precious stones, seeds of sorts, and gum copal furnished the principal advances in value of produce, excluding articles used as foods, copra, gambir, india rubber, Jelutong or East India gums, sticklac, goats' skins, and petroleum giving the principal declines. Advances are seen in the quantities of preserved pineapples, areca-nuts, black and white pepper, sago, gum benjamin, gum damar, gum copal, rattans, gutta percha, Borneo and Para rubber, and hides sent out in 1906, compared with 1905, decreases being observable in copra, tapioca, jelutong, sticklac, and india rubber. Nearly 707,500 cases of Singapore-grown pineapples were exported in tins, valued at nearly $3\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars, an increase of about 160,000 cases and \$457,000.

Of copra imported, after allowing for a large consumption by local oil mills, 40,772 tons, valued at over $5\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars, were sent off, a decrease of 17,859 tons and over two million dollars. Into Singapore alone the imports reached 37,800 tons, of which 25,400 tons were re-exported. Prices averaged an increase of 8 per cent. over the 1905 rates. Little variation is noticed in the quantity of coffee exported, planters having for some time neglected this product in favour of rubber and other more profitable crops. Gambir exports recorded 38,976 tons, valued at under $5\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, an increase of 2,173 tons, but a fall in value of \$656,000; a little in a desiccated form has been sent out for some time, complaints of adulteration being frequent in the case of the ordinary gambir. The average price fell by about 16 per cent.

Exports of black pepper reached over 17,700 tons, an increase of 2,600. To nearly all countries except the United States increased shipments were made. The average price in Singapore was \$21.55 per pikul of $133\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; a decrease of \$4.90 per pikul as compared with the previous year. White pepper exports reached about 6,940 tons, an increase of about 2,000 tons, seen chiefly in larger shipments to Germany and the United States. The local average price fell from \$37 to \$28 $\frac{1}{2}$ per pikul as compared with 1905.

Tapioca exports recorded 42,325 tons, valued at over 5 million dollars, a decrease of 5,730 tons but an increase in value of $1\frac{2}{5}$ million dollars, a rise in price of over 62 per cent. having taken place. Sago exports amounted to over 50,000 tons, valued at nearly $2\frac{9}{10}$ million dollars, an increase of 2,214 tons and \$146,000. To Holland only was there any marked decline in the quantity sent.

Shipments of gutta percha shew 2,673 tons, an increase of 570 tons. The value was nearly $3\frac{1}{10}$ million dollars, an increase of \$395,000. Most was sent to the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States, but prices were poorer generally than in 1905, and this once great trade shews little signs of revival. Borneo and India rubber shew 2,694 tons sent off, a small decrease in quantity. Borneo rubber increased in quantity, but India rubber fell off, the value of Borneo increasing by \$45,500, but that of the other declining by \$388,000. Inferior rubbers and guttas, including jelutong, reached over 11,100 tons, valued at nearly $1\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars, a decrease of close on 1,200 tons and \$382,000. The United States and Germany received the largest consignments. Para rubber, much of which merely passed on through bills of lading but had been inserted as exports, reached over 8,400 cwts., valued at nearly $2\frac{1}{10}$ million dollars, being increases of 6,430 cwts. and nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars. Nearly all came from the Federated Malay States, Malacca, and Johore, but Sumatra consigned 119 cwts.; the United Kingdom took the bulk of the exports.

Hides, raw and tanned, shew 5,711 tons, valued at considerably over 3 million dollars, an increase of 263 tons and about \$140,000.

The exports of rattans reached 26,460 tons, an increase of 1,093; the value was over $4\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, a decrease of \$43,000. Sumatra, Dutch Borneo, and Achinese ports sent greater quantities, but supplies from Sarawak and the Celebes declined.

Gum copal exports record 9,135 tons, valued at over 2 million dollars, an increase of 1,408 tons and \$72,000. Larger consignments were made to the United Kingdom, Germany, Holland, and the United States of America.

The trade in areca-nuts is a very large one of over 52,000 tons, valued at $6\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, being an increase of over 3,760 tons and nearly $1\frac{2}{5}$ million dollars. Indian ports, Siam, and French Indo-China are the largest purchasers, little or no trade being done with Europe.

Of spices not particularly mentioned, cardamums, cloves, ginger, long pepper, and cinnamon shew advanced value sent off, while nutmegs, cassia, cubebs, and mace declined.

Shells were a large trade, especially in mother o' pearl.

Exports of manufactured articles advanced by over $3\frac{2}{5}$ million dollars, textiles rising by nearly 3 millions, metals by \$670,000, and miscellaneous manufactures by \$295,000.

TRADE BY COUNTRIES.

Imports from the United Kingdom rose to $35\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, an increase of close on $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars or over $4\frac{1}{4}$ per

cent., and exports to $66\frac{1}{2}$ millions, an advance of over $9\frac{3}{5}$ millions or nearly 17 per cent. The articles received shewing the largest gains were cotton piece-goods, cement, ironware and hardware, apparel, hoisery and millinery, coal, dyed yarn, bicycles and motor cars, and telegraph and telephone materials. Declines are seen in tramway and railway materials, sarongs, slendangs and kains, cotton blankets, grey yarn, corrugated iron, sewing thread, and malt liquors.

Exports rose in tin (with an advance of over 9 million dollars), Para rubber, hides, gutta percha, gum copal, and preserved pineapples. The following articles exported fell off in value:—India rubber, sugar, white pepper, sago and tapioca flour, and jelutong.

The Continent of Europe sent goods to the value of $16\frac{1}{10}$ million dollars, a decrease of \$631,000 or over $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and the exports were valued at nearly $32\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, a decrease of \$544,000, or over $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

France, Belgium, Holland, Sweden (with Norway) and Russia sent increased values, but Italy and Austria values especially fell off, and Germany, Denmark, and Spain also shewed declining values. Italian decreases are marked in cotton piece-goods, apparel and hosiery, condensed milk, and sarongs, and, in the case of Austria, in cement and hardware. German cement, apparel, and sugar declined, but ironware and hardware with cotton piece-goods advanced. Dutch supplies rose in cotton piece-goods and earthenware, but fell in dyed yarn, sarongs, gin, and candles. Milk and iron bar increased in value from Belgium, but cottons fell off. Brandy from France increased in value, and apparel from Spain declined. Matches from Sweden and milk from Norway increased in values, but Danish cement gave a fall.

Exports declined to France, chiefly in copra and Borneo rubber, but flake tapioca, tin, and illipi nuts gave enhanced values. There was a slight decrease to Germany over all, tin, rattans, and copra yielding the principal declines, and rubbers, pepper, oil cakes, and gutta percha shewing advances. Copra and gambir fell off in value to Italian ports, and to Russia the former article alone declined in over $1\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars. Tin and black pepper to Austria increased, but decreased to Holland, along with sago flour.

Raw hides, gum copal, and copra to Holland advanced, as also copra to Belgium.

Copra to Spanish ports and to Denmark increased; Denmark also received greater values of black pepper and pearl sago.

The United States of America sent goods to the value of nearly $2\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars, a decrease of \$582,000, seen chiefly in decreases in the values of lard, petroleum, oilman's stores, wire nails, paper, and stationery. Wheat flour brought from

Hong Kong (but chiefly from American mills) fell off very largely in value to only \$800,000, a fall of no less than \$1,129,000, and even of this reduced supply about one-third is said to have been of Australian origin. Exports to the United States were valued at over $34\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars, a fall of nearly $1\frac{7}{10}$ million or $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Smaller values of the following articles sent off are mainly responsible for this:—Black pepper, tin, jelutong, coconut oil, Borneo rubber, gutta percha, gambir, gum copal, and tapioca flour. Tapioca (pearl), preserved pineapples, white pepper, and rattans shewed increased export values.

Imports from British India and Burma, excluding goods shipped *via* ports in French India, declined to $40\frac{2}{5}$ million dollars, a decrease of nearly $3\frac{7}{10}$ millions; of which Calcutta was responsible for nearly $1\frac{2}{5}$ million, Burma ports $1\frac{3}{5}$ million, Madras well over half a million, and Bombay about \$174,000. Benares opium from Calcutta fell by nearly three million dollars, but gunny bags rose by three-fifths of a million, and coal by nearly one million dollars.

Rice from Burma ports fell by nearly $1\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars, and petroleum also declined. Imports of ground-nuts and tobacco, however, increased in value. Sarongs from Madras ports fell by over seven-tenths of a million dollars, followed by goats' skins. Cattle received advanced in value. Smaller values of cloves and grey yarn from Bombay are noticeable. Exports to British India and Burma rose to nearly $13\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars, an increase of \$618,000. Calcutta values advanced by nearly a million dollars, Burma receiving half-a-million less in value, Bombay an increase of about \$200,000, and Madras one of \$77,000. Areca-nuts to Calcutta increased in value by over a million dollars, and to Burma by \$207,000, and also shewed a small advance to Madras. Sticklac to Calcutta, and fish, tin, and coconuts to Burma gave less values, while tin exported to Bombay increased.

The trade with the Dutch Indies recorded $50\frac{1}{5}$ million dollars as imports, an increase of $1\frac{1}{4}$ million. Java sent less value by \$329,000, but the fluctuations were enormous, sugar shewing a decline of \$682,000, followed by birds' nests, kachang oil, and ground-nuts with declines of over \$100,000 each, while black pepper advanced by \$283,000, areca-nuts by \$182,000, and curry stuffs by \$121,000. Sumatran supplies increased by $1\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars, areca-nuts, black pepper, and petroleum accounting together for nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars of the advance, gutta percha for \$237,000, followed by inferior rubber, rattans, and illipi nuts, with smaller increases. The increase in petroleum is partly attributable to the oil now being declared under its country of origin. Borneo rubber and sago flour shewed less values by \$340,000 and \$120,000 respectively.

Imports from Dutch Borneo fell off by nearly \$400,000, copra, jelutong, and coal being the principal declines, while Borneo rubber, petroleum residue, and areca-nuts increased. From the Dutch Islands and the Celebes an increase of nine-tenths of a million is noted. From the Dutch Islands tin ore alone accounted for a rise of $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions, but petroleum (subject to the above explanation), fish, copra, tin, and nutmegs fell off. Supplies from the Celebes increased in gum copal; values of nutmegs and bêche de mer falling off. A decrease of \$306,000 value is noted from Bali; copra alone decreased by \$625,000, but coffee rose by \$123,000. An advance of \$440,000 is seen from Achinese ports, chiefly apparent in areca-nuts and copra, black pepper consignments falling off. The decrease of \$372,000 from the Natunas Islands is almost entirely due to copra. Gambir and pepper from Rhio declined in values.

Exports to the Dutch Indies were higher at $41\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, an increase of \$836,000. Java had a decrease of half-a-million, rice, grey yarn, coffee, sarongs, and curry stuffs shewing the principal declines. Coconut oil and gunnies rose in value to Java ports. An increase of $1\frac{3}{10}$ million dollars is registered for Sumatran ports, rice, sarongs, cotton piece-goods, tobacco, tin, and tea shewing the chief improvements. A decrease of over one million dollars to the Dutch Islands and the Celebes is seen, rice and opium being responsible for this. An increase of \$129,000 to Dutch Borneo is accounted for by greater values of rice and cottons. To Bali the value of goods sent decreased by \$234,000, and that to the Natunas Islands by \$56,000.

Achinese ports took nearly \$600,000 more value and Rhio \$68,000. To Bali, Benares opium and cottons are the principal decreases, and to Rhio a greater value of Benares opium was sent. Achinese ports received greater values of cotton piece-goods, rice, fish, and sugar.

Imports from the Federated Malay States were valued at over $75\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars, a decrease of \$316,000. Perak consigned less value by nearly two million dollars, Selangor an increase of \$876,000, Negri Sembilan an increase of over $1\frac{1}{10}$ million, and Pahang a decline of \$327,000 value.

Tin and tin ore accounted for a decrease of nearly two million dollars, gutta percha for one of \$160,000, followed by curry stuffs, coffee, and black pepper. Para rubber increased by $1\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars value, followed by tapioca (pearl), swine, and seeds.

Exports to the Federated Malay States rose to 34 million dollars, an increase of over three millions. Perak received nearly three million dollars more value, Selangor six-tenths of a million less. Negri Sembilan \$850,000 more and Pahang \$141,000 less. Benares opium, swine, and sugar all fell off

in value, but rice, tobacco, and cigars, cotton piece-goods, bran, tea, fish, paperware, and apparel all largely increased.

Imports from Hong Kong and China shewed a value of $26\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars, a decrease of over $1\frac{3}{5}$ million.

From Hong Kong, hides, jewellery, tea, tin, and dried fruits all increased, but wheat flour fell by over $1\frac{1}{10}$ million dollars, followed by beans and peas, Persian opium, cement, lard, and raw silk with smaller reductions. Lard, earthenware, and beans and peas from China advanced, but joss sticks and joss paper, jewellery, and tobacco decreased..

Exports to Hong Kong and China rose to nearly $17\frac{7}{10}$ million dollars, an increase of close on $1\frac{7}{10}$ million. The following articles increased largely:—Sugar-candy, black pepper, preserved pineapples, ground-nuts, birds' nests, planks, and tanned hides. Decreased values were seen in Benares opium, raw cotton, tapioca flour, and goats' skins.

French Indo-China sent goods to the value of nearly $4\frac{9}{10}$ million dollars, a rise of nearly three-fifths of a million, for which rice was more than responsible.

Exports thither rose by \$361,000 to nearly $2\frac{2}{5}$ million dollars, gunny bags and areca-nuts shewing the greater advances, but the value of lubricating oil fell off.

From the Malay Peninsula other than the Federated Malay States imports totalled nearly $12\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, of which Johore contributed $8\frac{4}{5}$ millions. This is a total decrease of $1\frac{7}{10}$ million, for which Johore is almost entirely responsible. Tringganu increased by \$180,000, Kelantan decreased by about the same amount, and imports from Singgora and Patani slightly advanced. Gambir and black pepper, from Johore, fish from Tringganu, and copra and fish from Kelantan all decreased, but areca-nuts, tin ore, flake tapioca, and Para rubber rose in the case of Johore, tin ore, padi, and black pepper in that of Tringganu, and padi in that of Singgora.

Exports to these States decreased by \$97,000 to about $5\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars, of which total Johore contributed nearly $3\frac{9}{10}$ millions, a slight decrease. Provisions and preserved vegetables decreased in value to Johore, but rice and railway materials advanced. To Kelantan a decrease of \$110,000 is noted, to Tringganu an increase of \$49,000, to Singgora an increase of \$44,000, and to Patani a decrease of \$51,000.

Sarongs and rice to Tringganu, cotton piece-goods to Singgora, and tobacco and gambir to Kelantan advanced, but dyed yarn to Patani declined.

Australia sent to the value of $5\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars, an increase of nearly $2\frac{9}{10}$ millions or over 119 per cent. Coal advanced in value by $1\frac{3}{5}$ million, wheat flour by nearly a million, and tin ore by \$377,000.

Exports at something over $1\frac{1}{2}$ million decreased by \$208,000. Values of tin and copra declined, but tapioca (pearl) shewed an enhanced value.

Imports from Japan decreased by \$1,336,000 to rather more than five million dollars, coal alone falling by $1\frac{1}{4}$ million, and umbrellas and Japan-ware also giving decreased values. Matches, silk piece-goods, and jinrikshas advanced.

Exports at nearly $2\frac{2}{3}$ million dollars shewed a decrease of \$44,000. Tanned hides and manure decreased, and raw cotton was the only advance of any importance.

Siam and Siam West Coast sent merchandise to the value of $33\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, an increase of over $2\frac{3}{5}$ millions. Rice supplies rose by over half-a-million, padi by \$364,000, cattle by \$284,000, hides by \$250,000, bran by \$211,000, swine by \$207,000, and tin by \$197,000. Sticklac decreased by \$147,000.

Exports, valued at nearly $18\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars, increased by nearly two millions. The only important decline was in Benares opium by \$690,000. Increases were prominent in areca-nuts, gunnies, sarongs, cottons, rice, grey yarn, medicine, provisions, &c.

Imports from Sarawak were nearly 5 million dollars, a decrease of \$106,000, and from British North Borneo \$845,000, a fall of \$7,000. Gutta and copra from Sarawak decreased, but sago flour and coal advanced in values. Rattans and Borneo rubber fell off from British North Borneo, gum copal and gum dammar giving enhanced values.

Exports to Sarawak, valued at over $3\frac{1}{3}$ million dollars, decreased by \$162,000, seen in declines in the values of tobacco and cigars, fish, sarongs, Persian opium, sugar, cottons, &c., but the export value of rice rose considerably. Exports to British North Borneo came to nearly $1\frac{2}{5}$ million dollars, a decrease of \$27,000. Rice, tobacco and cigars, beer and ale, sugar, &c., fell in value, cotton piece-goods yielding an increase.

OBSERVATIONS ON TRADE.

The first six months of 1906 were most disappointing to merchants.

The smaller firms had to turn over stocks, and the larger, in order to keep in their marks, were forced to follow suit. From July to December, however, the fixity of exchange becoming recognized and a great advance taking place in home prices, merchants were able to obtain better profits than had obtained earlier in the year. The large number of native firms forced into liquidation during the earlier half of 1906 has had a beneficial effect in weeding out the weaker class of dealers, and prospects for 1907 are, at the time of writing, fairly promising. The stocks in hand at the close of the year were heavier than has been the case for a considerable time past.

While the principal staple cotton goods are still supplied to Siam, principally through the Singapore agents of rice merchants there, prints and dyed fancy cloths are being more and more imported direct; but it is satisfactory to note that more than three-fourths of the textiles imported into Bangkok are from the United Kingdom and Singapore.

Observations on the different classes of goods will be found in greater detail in the preceding portion of this report.

It has been stated by compilers of statistics that the imports from the United Kingdom have fallen off when compared with the total imports of the Colony if the proportional percentage test is taken. This is no doubt the case, for during the decade 1880 to 1889 the imports from the United Kingdom amounted to 20·4 per cent. of the whole, whilst for the decade 1896-1905 the percentage was only 10·5.

The statements on which the above percentages are based include, however, raw material from Asia, such as tin, opium, rice, &c., and the Registrar of Imports and Exports has prepared a return, which I annex, giving the value of European goods imported into the Colony: this return shows that although the proportional percentage of the imports from the United Kingdom is 63·5 for the decade 1897-1906 as compared with 71·3 during the decade 1887-1896, the excess of British over foreign goods is \$129,500,000 during the decade 1897-1906 whilst for the decade 1887-1896 it was \$110,900,000.

Return Shewing the Imports of European Goods into the Straits Settlements, 1887 to 1906.

	Import Values of European Goods.	Increase over previous period.	Import Values from United Kingdom.	Increase over previous period.	Import Values from Foreign Countries.	Increase over previous period.	United Kingdom proportional percentage of total Imports.	Foreign Countries proportional percentage of total Imports.
In millions of	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		
1887-1896 ...	260·3	—	185·6	—	74·7	—	71·3	28·7
1888-1897 ...	271·5	11·2	191·4	5·8	80·1	5·4	70·5	29·5
1889-1898 ...	283·7	12·2	198·3	6·9	85·4	5·3	59·9	30·1
1890-1899 ...	300·4	16·7	207·3	9·0	93·1	7·7	69·0	31·0
1891-1900 ...	321·2	20·8	216·9	9·6	104·3	11·2	67·5	32·5
1892-1901 ...	346·4	25·2	230·5	13·6	115·9	11·6	66·5	33·5
1893-1902 ...	370·7	24·3	244·2	13·7	126·5	10·6	65·9	34·1
1894-1903 ...	403·6	32·9	263·1	18·9	140·5	14·0	65·2	34·8
1895-1904 ...	429·5	25·9	274·9	11·8	154·6	14·1	64·0	36·0
1896-1905 ...	454·3	24·8	288·6	13·7	165·7	11·1	63·5	36·5
1897-1906 ...	480·3	26·0	304·9	16·3	175·4	9·7	63·5	36·5

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

In Singapore, the increase of pineapple cultivation has been very large. Extensive areas, for many years waste ground covered with secondary jungle, have been cleared and planted up with pineapples for tinning. The whole of this business appears to be in the hands of Chinese.

Considerable interest has been shown in the cultivation of the oil-grasses, lemon-grass, and citronella in several parts of the Island, and the development of this industry has been active. The cultivation of indigo and vegetables has increased, as has that of pepper in a minor degree. Ground-nuts are coming into favour again, and some acres are now under this plant. The fruit-crops continued to be poor, and the planting of fruit trees appears to be on the increase. It is possible that the pooriness of this crop, and the general scarcity of fruit grown in Singapore of recent years, may be due to the age of the trees and a failure to plant young ones. Coconut cultivation increases rapidly.

Experiments, undertaken with a view to determining the best method of tapping Para rubber trees, were continued at the Singapore Botanic Gardens throughout the year, and very interesting and useful information has been obtained.

An Agri-horticultural Show, which was a decided success as regards the quality and quantity of exhibits, was held in Singapore in August. The exhibits were representative of the industrial as well as agricultural work of the Colony and the Federated Malay States, and the Show was very well patronised by the public.

As to Penang and Province Wellesley, the rubber trees at the gardens in Penang were tapped, and a fair quantity of seed was sold to planters. In spite of the rise in the exchange value of the dollar, agricultural prices were on the whole better than in 1905, while tapioca reached the highest point recorded for many years. The padi harvest was a fairly good one, but the fruit crop was, as in Singapore, poor. Para rubber and coconuts are gradually superseding sugar on nearly all the estates in Province Wellesley, except those of the Penang sugar estates. Two sugar estates, Prai and Batu Kawan, which have been flourishing undertakings in the past, were offered for sale towards the close of the year, but found no purchasers. The nutmeg plantations on Bukit Mertajam are gradually dying out. In Malacca the opening of the railway has had considerable influence on the cultivation of tapioca, inasmuch as the demand for pigs (which are largely fed on tapioca refuse) has risen owing to the increased facilities for sending them to the Federated Malay States.

Planters of tapioca are now compelled by the conditions of their titles to plant through the crop fruit trees, coconuts, or

rubber, in order to ensure permanency of cultivation. Land planted with tapioca alone soon gets exhausted and when abandoned becomes a waste covered by lalang grass. Immense tracts of such land have been abandoned in the past, but are now being taken up rapidly for rubber. The clause compelling permanent cultivation has been very successful, and it is hoped that there will be few additions to the amount of land abandoned to lalang. Small cultivators are enabled to plant rubber by utilising tapioca or gambier as a catch crop to tide over the years which must elapse before the rubber makes any return, and the consequence is that small rubber plantations are springing up all over the Settlement.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 19,711,498, as compared with 18,890,600 in 1905. The amount realised by light dues was \$223,387.94.

Nine hundred and sixty-seven vessels aggregating 8,258 tons were built in Singapore in 1906, the figures for the previous year being 1,002 and 9,025, respectively.

LEGISLATION.

Thirty Ordinances were passed in 1906, of which 15 amended existing Ordinances, 14 were new legislation, and one repealed "The Public Servants Liability Ordinance, 1889."

Of the new legislation the more important Ordinances were:— "The Currency Note Amendment Ordinance," already referred to, (No. I.), "The Corporations Duty" (No. II.), an Ordinance to impose a duty on the property of bodies corporate and unincorporate, which have hitherto been free from taxation; "The Vagrancy Ordinance" (No. VI.), which establishes houses of detention for vagrants and provides machinery for repatriating persons not born in the Colony who are convicted of vagrancy; "The Banishment Ordinance" (No. VII.), which extends the powers of expulsion of the Governor in Council to certain criminal aliens; "The Exclusion Ordinance" (No. IX.), to prevent the landing of decrepits and beggars in the Colony; "The Administration of Estates Ordinance" (No. XI.), which gives improved provision for the protection and administration of the estates of deceased persons; "The Pilgrim Brokers Ordinance" (No. XVII.), a much needed measure for preventing fraud by a most unscrupulous class of the community; and two Ordinances relating to liquors and opium (Nos. XIX. and XX.), which consolidate and bring up to date the law governing the collection of excise duties on liquors and the control of the opium traffic. An Ordinance was also passed to enable the Government to raise loans for public purposes ("The General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance," No. XXV.).

In consequence of the changes in the currency, "The Currency Note Ordinance, 1899," was again amended four times. "The Municipal Ordinance, 1896," was again amended in several important particulars by Ordinance No. XII., and Ordinances were also passed amending the Banishment, Malacca Lands, Pilgrim Ships, Volunteer, and Widows and Orphans' Pensions Ordinances. The work of consolidation and improvement in the form of the laws has been kept in view, and the Minor Offences Ordinance (No. XIII.) forms a consolidation of the law of street and other offences and matters, the subject of summary jurisdiction. It effected a repeal of nine old Indian Acts and Ordinances dealing with their substance on more modern lines, and it should be a considerable help to magistrates in the stress of their daily work.

Having the same object in view, a Committee, consisting of the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Honourable W. J. Napier, and Mr. C. E. Velge, Registrar of the Supreme Court, were, during the year, appointed to undertake the arduous task of drafting new Courts and Civil Procedure Ordinances. The work of the Committee had not been completed by the end of the year, but it is hoped that the Bills will be brought before Council during 1907. Other legislation in contemplation is a complete revision of the Stamp Ordinances, and the introduction of the long delayed Merchant Shipping Ordinance, into which will be incorporated last year's Imperial legislation on the subject.

Much legislation, which is of a technical nature, cannot be properly dealt with in a Committee of the whole Council, and the tendency is for such legislation to be delegated to Sub-Committees. The Government has to acknowledge the services of the Members of Council who, acting on Sub-Committees, considered and redrafted the Bills introduced into Council which subsequently resulted in "The Administration of Estates," "The Pilgrim Brokers," and "Minor Offences" Ordinances. A Sub-Committee also dealt with the difficult question of Registration of Partnerships, a Bill on which subject was read a second time in the early part of the year under review.

This Sub-Committee held a large number of meetings and presented a revised Bill which was approved of by a majority of the Sub-Committee, seven in number, but was dissented from by a minority of three. Owing to the opposition which the Bill has evoked among the mercantile community, it has been decided not to proceed further in the matter at the present time.

EDUCATION.

Nearly all the schools of the Colony are vernacular schools for Malays, under the direct control of Government. All the expenses of these schools, which are 171 in number, are defrayed by Government, and they provide free tuition in Malay to some 11,300 pupils. The remaining schools are, with the exception of four which are controlled and financed by Government, aided-schools managed by private bodies, and receive grants-in-aid from Government.

In 29 schools English only is taught, in six, English and Tamil, in two, Tamil only, and in one, Chinese only; the number of pupils enrolled in these four classes of schools are 10,803, 458, 66, and 36, respectively. The average daily attendance at vernacular schools was 8,949, and that at schools where English only is taught was 8,533. There are, in addition to the Government and aided-schools, a few private schools which are not inspected by Government. These are chiefly Chinese vernacular schools.

The net expenditure on Government schools was \$85,490, on aided-schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil, and Chinese), \$92,317, and on Government vernacular schools, \$87,286.83.

The cost of the Malacca Training College for Malay teachers during the year under review was \$4,136.65. The value of this institution is considerable, and it produces very good teaching material for the vernacular schools. The demand, however, for trained teachers, more especially in Penang and Province Wellesley, is much in excess of the supply, and it will be some years before the schools in these Settlements are staffed exclusively by trained men.

The Commercial and Science Classes at the Raffles Institution have made satisfactory progress during the year.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

Practically all the hospitals of the Colony are under Government management, while the estate hospitals, maintained by the planters, are under Government supervision. The total number of admissions to the hospitals, exclusive of the lunatic asylum, was 24,696, as against 23,762 in 1905. In Singapore, 231 patients were admitted into the lunatic asylum, the number during the previous year being 228.

REFORMATORY.

The number of boys in the reformatory at the end of the year was 63; the highest number during the year was 62 and the lowest 36. The new permanent buildings, to accommodate

120, were finished early in 1906. The health of inmates has been good throughout the year. Instruction is given at the school in English and Romanised Malay, and at the workshops in tailoring, carpentering, and shoemaking. The expenditure amounted to \$8,391, as against \$8,984 in 1905.

SAVINGS BANK.

The transactions in this branch amounted to \$393,889 (deposits), and \$385,013 (withdrawals), as compared with \$369,970 and \$391,066 in 1905. The amount standing to the credit of depositors at the end of the year was \$582,236 (in 1905, \$558,485).

The investments at the close of the year stood at \$587,438, as compared with \$579,238 at the corresponding period of the previous year.

POLICE.

The Inspector-General, Lieutenant-Colonel Pennefather, retired on pension in December.

One assistant superintendent was seconded for one year for service in the Federated Malay States Police.

One inspector died and one was pensioned during the year. Seventeen European constables were enlisted, 10 were engaged from England, and seven locally.

Eleven European constables were dismissed during the year.

Twenty-three murders and 51 gang robberies were reported during the year; of the latter, 24 were proved in the preliminary investigation to be false.

The police force numbers over 2,000 men, of whom more than 300 are Sikhs.

A training department for the instruction of recruits was established during the year at Malacca.

The judicial returns indicate a slight decrease in cases of serious crime, though the number of persons brought before the magistrates exceeded that for 1905.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the Colony was 611,790, the figures given by the Census of 1901 being 572,249. Fifteen thousand four hundred and thirty-four were registered as against 17,254 in 1905.

The death-rate was 37·82 per mille of the population. The rate in 1905 was 40·51.

In Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, the general arrangements for sanitation and conservancy are carried out by the Municipality and in the several districts of Province Wellesley by sanitary boards with powers under the Municipal Ordinance.

CLIMATE.

The mean rainfall in Singapore was 118·38 inches; in Penang, 102·21 inches; in Province Wellesley, 88·79 inches; in the Dindings, 90·34 inches; and in Malacca, 80·57 inches.

The greatest fall in 24 hours was 5·7 inches in Penang on 19th April.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

Over 17,000,000 articles passed through the Post Office, of which nearly 585,000 were registered.

The postal revenue amounted to \$587,952, as against \$555,285 in 1905. The expenditure was \$429,881, a decrease of \$41,223 as compared with that of the preceding year. The money order business showed a decrease \$429,706, due to the fact that the Colonial Post Office has, since 1905, ceased to be the intermediary for the exchange of money orders between the Federated Malay States and India and Ceylon. Excluding such "through" orders, there was an increase of \$120,511. The transactions in sterling amounted to £24,434, and those in Indian currency to Rs. 1,911,702, while in local currency business was done to the extent of \$477,713, the aggregate being thus \$1,776,600, as against \$2,206,305 in 1905 and \$2,464,770 in 1904.

The telegraphs in Penang and Province Wellesley and the inland lines in Malacca, all of which are connected with the Government system of the Federated Malay States, are the property of Government.

The telephone system of Singapore is the property of the Oriental Electric and Telephone Company. This Company also maintains for Government the lines connecting the Government offices and police stations, &c. There is a branch exchange at Johore Bharu, which is connected with Singapore.

The telephone lines in Penang and Province Wellesley, 704 miles in length, are owned and worked by Government. The system in use is the metallic circuit in Penang, but in Province Wellesley earth returns are used. The number of subscribers at the end of the year was (331) and there were in addition 48 service lines.

The Malacca telephone system is also worked by Government, and consists of 154 miles of service lines.

MILITARY.

The garrison in Singapore consisted of two companies of Royal Garrison Artillery, half a company of Royal Engineers, one battalion of British Infantry and one battalion of Native Infantry besides Asiatic Artillery (Sikhs) and details of other corps. No militia force exists. The strength of the garrison was 2,380, all ranks.

A detachment of the Malay States Guides was quartered in Penang. The military contribution of the Colony in respect of the year 1906 amounted to \$1,751,785.

A Volunteer Artillery Force, 134 strong (including reserves), exists in Singapore. Only Europeans are enlisted in it. Its armament is under alteration. It also possesses four Maxim guns (303), in the use of which it is proficient. This corps is armed with Martini-Metford carbines and sword-bayonets.

A Maxim company, 47 strong, works the four guns belonging to the Singapore Volunteer Artillery.

There is one company of Volunteer Engineers, composed of Europeans, 56 strong (including reserves).

There is one company of Eurasians and one company of Straits-born Chinese, 120 and 89 strong, respectively, including reserves.

A Volunteer Infantry Force, 84 strong, is also in existence in Penang, and is reported to be efficient.

There is in addition in Singapore a bearer and ambulance section composed of 7 Europeans, 14 Eurasians, and 4 Chinese (Straits-born), and a Cadet Corps, 152 strong, armed with Martini-Metford carbines. In Malacca there is a Cadet Corps, 81 strong, also armed with Martini-Metford carbines.

IMMIGRATION.

I.—CHINESE.

The number of immigrants from Chinese ports shows an increase of 1·9 per cent. upon the number for 1905, but a reduction of 19·3 per cent. upon that for the record year, 1903. The figures for female immigration show a regrettable reduction from all ports, which it is difficult to explain satisfactorily. The number of *unpaid passengers*, i.e., of coolies who obtain free passages from China, in consideration of entering into contracts for service on arrival in the Colony, has risen to 18,675, an increase of 3,811 over the figures for last year. These *unpaid passengers* now number over 12 per cent. of the total adult male immigrants, the highest percentage since the year 1900.

The harvests in South China appear to have been normal.

The returns for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.				Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
1902	...	...	...	184,198	13,151	9,807	207,156
1903	...	...	...	193,339	14,539	12,443	220,321
1904	...	...	...	179,650	14,395	10,751	204,796
1905	...	...	...	148,869	13,714	10,548	173,131
1906	...	...	...	153,624	12,478	10,485*	176,587

*Boys, 7,631 ; Girls, 2,854.

II.—INDIAN.

The figures for the last three years are appended:—

—				1904.	1905.	1906.
1.	Statute Immigrants	...	...	2,721	4,823	3,674
2.	Free Coolies (with aided tickets)	...	...	3,556	7,687	20,215
3.	Other immigrants	...	...	24,475*	27,030†	28,152‡

* 1,810 children.

† 2,488 children.

‡ 3,450 children.

Twenty-one thousand one hundred and forty-four adults and 735 children left the Colony for Southern India.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

The revenue received in Christmas Island during the year 1906 was \$1,670.46; the royalty on the phosphate exported, which is paid in London, was £7,153 8s. 10d., as against £6,096 15s. in 1905, and £4,638 8s. 8d. in 1904.

The expenditure was \$13,709.55 (in Christmas Island), and \$1,004.70 (in Singapore, for passages, &c.); total \$14,714.25.

There was a slight increase in crime, 183 cases being tried as against 166 in 1905 and 178 in 1904. Two hundred and seventy-three persons were accused and 227 convicted. The offences were, however, chiefly of a petty character.

Thirty-five vessels were cleared in 1906, with a total registered tonnage of 45,053, as against 50,744 tons in 1905. Excluding cargoes of phosphate taken by the company's steamer to Singapore, ten vessels took phosphate to Japanese ports and five to European ports.

The district officer reports that the present somewhat limited facilities for loading, to a large extent due to the indifferent

weather so frequent on the island, render it doubtful whether shipments of phosphate can be much increased beyond those of the last two years; but it is anticipated that the shipments for 1907 will not be less than those for 1906, and may, if favourable circumstances prevail, reach 100,000 tons.

On the 1st January, 1906, the population of the island was 1,061, and on the 31st December it had risen to 1,152; of the latter number 1,112 were males and 40 females. Included in these figures were 26 Europeans and Eurasians (18 males, 8 females). The death-rate was 28·5 per mille per annum, the figures in 1905 and 1904 being 19·98 and 116·43 respectively. Beri-beri was responsible for 54·8 per cent. of the deaths, the number succumbing to this disease being 17, as against 12 in 1905.

The increased mortality from beri-beri is hard to explain. There were 174 less admissions to hospital for this disease, and the number of cases treated dropped from 601 to 410. The percentages of deaths to cases in 1905 and 1906 were 2 per cent. and 4·1 per cent. respectively. The conditions of life were no different; the coolies enjoy good food, pure air and water, and there is no fault to find with the sanitary conditions under which they live. The mortality from beri-beri is, of course, much less than in former years, but it is clear that the problem of eradicating the disease is by no means near solution.

In the hospital "parboiled," or Indian rice, is used exclusively, but the coolies are said to decline to eat it when not in hospital. It is hoped that the company will endeavour to persuade the coolies to take to the parboiled rice, as the balance of medical opinion still tends to the belief that the ordinary rice cannot be neglected as a possible cause of the disease. If looked at only from the business point of view, it would appear that the interests of the company would be best served by eradicating the disease, as the number of patients admitted for beri-beri in 1906 was 370, with an average stay in hospital of 25 days each. This represents a loss of 9,250 days' labour, in addition to the cost of drugs, &c., and the food of the coolies.

The year was a very wet one, rain falling on 189 days, and the output of phosphate was in consequence not so large as was anticipated. During the year an experimental vegetable garden was started by the company, but the earth is so porous that it retains hardly any moisture. The garden is, moreover, not large enough for the needs of the community.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Early in February His Royal Highness Prince Arthur of Connaught passed through Penang and Singapore on his way to Japan to invest His Imperial Majesty the Mikado with the Order of the Garter. He was accorded a loyal and hearty reception by the inhabitants of both Settlements.

The Governor (Sir John Anderson, K.C.M.G.), proceeded on leave in March, and returned to the Colony in June. The office of Colonial Secretary being vacant, Sir William Taylor, K.C.M.G., Resident-General, Federated Malay States, administered the Government during that period.

Tenders for the construction of the harbour works in Singapore having been invited from several prominent firms of engineering contractors in England, that of Sir John Jackson, Ltd., was in March accepted by the Legislative Council. Preliminary work was begun before the end of the year.

Extensive schemes for the improvement of Penang Harbour, the construction of a lagoon dock at Tanjong Pagar, and the general improvement of facilities for working cargo at both ports were under consideration at the end of the year.

There was a slight outbreak of cholera in the Nibong Tebal District of Province Wellesley, but the precautions taken effectually prevented the disease from spreading, and it was soon stamped out.

The award of the Umpire in the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company Arbitration was delivered on July 4th. The sum awarded was \$28,447,177.

Good progress was made in Singapore with the improvement of Kampong Glam, which has been rendered possible by Ordinance XIII. of 1904, and the work will undoubtedly result in a great amelioration of the sanitary conditions of that quarter of the town. In Penang a Board for the management and control of Hindu and Mohammedan endowments was constituted under Ordinance XVII. of 1905 at the beginning of the year, and has taken over the administration of several important properties, notably the Captain Kling Mosque lands, in the heart of the town, and it is hoped that the efforts of the Board will do much for the improvement of the town.

New instructions for the administration of the Colony in substitution for those dated 17th June, 1885, and 7th December, 1887, were passed under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet on the 31st October.

The Agri-horticultural Show held in August has already been referred to. It should do much to further the development of all the agricultural industries of the Colony and the Federated Malay States.

In November His Majesty's Order in Council annexing the Colony of Labuan to the Straits Settlements was issued; from the 1st January, 1907, it becomes part of the Settlement of Singapore. It has been arranged that only the balance of the island's revenue over its expenditure (if any) shall be assessable to military contribution.

The opium and spirit farms for the Colony for the term 1907-9 were let in August. The tenders received were considerably below the rents paid by the late farmers, so that the revenue (for 1907) from licences shows a large reduction on the figures which appear in the Estimates for 1906.

A British Vice-Consul was appointed for the Siamese Western States, with headquarters at Alor Star, as the growing interests of British subjects in these countries urgently called for the appointment of such a resident official.

Mr. W. R. Collyer, I.S.O., retired from the post of Attorney-General early in the year, while other retirements were those of Captain Boldero, R.N. (retired), Master Attendant, Lieut.-Colonel Pennefather, Inspector-General of Police, and Mr. R. W. Hullett, Principal of Raffles Institution and for some time Acting Director of Public Instruction, Straits Settlements. Mr. J. K. Birch took leave in November prior to retirement in the early part of 1907.

Among the appointments made during the course of the year was that of Sir William Hyndman-Jones as Chief Justice in succession to Sir Lionel Cox, retired. Towards the latter portion of the year the Education Department was reorganised and Mr. J. B. Elcum was made Director of Education for the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, the appointment of Director of Public Instruction being abolished. Captain Boldero was succeeded as Master Attendant by Commander C. A. Radcliffe, R.N., and Lieut.-Colonel Pennefather as Inspector-General of Police by Mr. W. A. Cuscaden. I was appointed Colonial Secretary in June, and assumed my duties on the 27th of that month.

Mr. G. T. Hare, C.M.G., I.S.O., late Secretary for Chinese Affairs, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, died during the year, after a long illness. His work in the Chinese Protectorate is too well known to require reference in this report. He was a most valued public servant, and one who, after his retirement, was always willing to place at the disposal of the Government his great and varied experience of Chinese affairs.

The death of Mr. H. H. Hudson, Solicitor-General, Penang, must also be recorded. Mr. Hudson joined the Service in 1888 as Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court, Singapore, and was appointed Solicitor-General in 1902. In him the public service has prematurely lost an officer of much talent.

In England the deaths occurred of Mr. Cosmo Paterson and Mr. W. G. Gulland. These two gentlemen were for many years prominently connected with this Colony.

Professor W. J. Simpson, who was engaged to enquire into and report upon various matters connected with the health of the Colony, stayed some months at Singapore, and it is probable that his visit will, in the future, be regarded as one of the most important events in the history of this Colony.

It will be necessary for the Government, the municipalities, and the people to work together with the resources at their disposal so that the various measures he may recommend for promoting the health of the towns by better housing and drainage and by improved water supplies may be adopted. In time, it is hoped that owing to these improvements the towns of the Colony may not occupy the unenviable position they at present hold in respect to death rates.

The Acting Colonial Secretary in his report for the year 1905 referred to the Shipping Conference, and I desire here to bring prominently to notice that the Registrar of Imports and Exports in his report for 1906 states that freights from Europe and America are now generally under the rates charged a few years ago, but owing to the export trade to Europe, America, Australia, and Indian ports, so far as freights are concerned, being in the hands of shipping rings, rates are excessive, and are slowly but surely restricting our operations as collectors of produce.

ARTHUR YOUNG,

Colonial Secretary.

19th August, 1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
509	Fiji	1905
510	St. Vincent	1905-1906
511	Sierra Leone	1905
512	Southern Nigeria	"
513	Basutoland	1905-1906
514	British Guiana	"
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905-1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"
524	Jamaica	1905-1906
525	Uganda	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda... ..	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906-1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	"
535	Malta	1906-1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906-1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
539	Leeward Islands... ..	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis ...	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904-5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate	Report on Kenia Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1905-6.

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1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 582.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 540.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1908.



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No. 582.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 540.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Singapore,
9 September, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Annual Report on
the Straits Settlements for the year 1907.

I have, &c.,

JOHN ANDERSON.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1907.

FINANCIAL.

REVENUE.

The estimated revenue of the year was \$9,436,932 and the actual revenue \$10,023,016, or \$586,084 in excess of the estimate and \$404,704 in excess of the actual revenue of 1906.

The following is a comparative statement showing the actual revenue collected in 1906 and 1907:—

	Revenue of 1906.	Revenue of 1907.	Net increase.	Net decrease.
	\$. c.	\$. c.	\$. c.	\$. c.
1. Land revenue	377,972 46	412,710 13	34,737 67	—
2. Rents exclusive of land	39,727 21	56,470 37	16,743 16	—
3. Licences	6,850,558 49	6,749,404 60	98,846 11	—
4. Stamps	167,464 95	393,924 55	226,459 60	—
5. Port and harbour dues	276,019 38	274,569 86	—	1,449 52
6. Post and telegraphs	592,962 58	620,442 61	27,480 03	—
7. Government railway	196,682 98	199,972 96	3,289 98	—
8. Fines and forfeitures	96,585 62	90,739 76	—	5,845 86
9. Fees of office	298,717 86	319,333 78	20,615 92	—
10. Reimbursements	320,457 10	313,256 14	—	7,200 56
11. Sale of Government property ..	2,323 35	57,807 85	55,484 50	—
12. Interest	84,183 47	113,040 35	28,856 88	—
13. Miscellaneous receipts	67,162 64	180,859 57	113,696 93	—
14. District collections	141,314 39	142,172 43	858 04	—
15. Land sales	106,180 49	98,261 53	—	7,918 96
Total	9,618,312 97	10,023,016 49	404,703 52	—
Deduct decrease	—	—	—	22,415 30
Net increase	—	—	404,703 52	—

Exclusive of land sales, the total revenue of 1907 was \$9,924,755 as against \$9,512,132 in 1906.

The increase under Miscellaneous Receipts is principally due to Labuan Revenue having been included under this head.

EXPENDITURE.

The following is a comparative statement of expenditure for 1906 and 1907:—

Heads of Service.	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
1. Charges on account of public debt	24,000 00	193,986 79	169,986 79	—
2. Pensions	326,357 16	365,296 42	38,939 26	—
3. Personal emoluments	2,586,194 80	2,770,494 19	184,299 39	—
4. Other charges	1,864,595 62	1,639,314 27	—	225,281 35
5. Charitable allowances	11,531 65	11,312 55	—	219 10
6. Transport	14,846 04	13,115 08	—	2,530 96
7. Exchange	20,225 53	17,333 23	—	2,892 30
8. Interest	5,634 21	4,523 00	—	1,111 21
9. Miscellaneous services	181,829 18	189,193 77	7,364 59	—
10. Military expenditure	1,763,488 56	1,554,512 20	—	208,976 36
11. Expenditure under the Volunteer Ordinance, 1888.	47,983 92	51,805 62	3,821 70	—
12. Land and houses purchased ..	5,820 00	846,999 43	841,179 43	—
13. Special expenses	108,195 81	5,614 44	—	102,581 37
14. Public works, annually recurrent	200,212 55	224,032 19	23,789 64	—
15. Roads, streets, &c., annually recurrent.	377,783 81	379,842 83	2,059 52	—
16. Public works, special services ..	983,584 75	934,974 76	—	48,609 99
17. Roads, streets, &c., special services	225,706 33	298,372 03	72,665 70	—
Total	8,747,819 42	9,499,692 80	1,344,076 02	592,202 64
Deduct decrease			592,202 64	
Net increase			751,873 38	

The total expenditure of 1907 chargeable to current revenue was \$751,873·38 more than in 1906.

The large increase under land and houses purchased is principally due to the purchase of property at Mount Wallich, \$380,000, in connection with the Singapore Harbour Works, and of the land belonging to the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company, Limited, \$351,355, for railway extension.

The actual expenditure was \$391,059 in excess of the estimate, the chief heads under which the actual expenditure exceeded the estimate being:—

	\$
Land and houses purchased	846,999
Charges on account of Public Debt	119,967

While there were savings under:—

Military expenditure	230,508
Public Works, special services	163,377
Personal emoluments	146,419

The total Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years were as follows:—

			Revenue.		Expenditure.	
			\$	c.	\$	c.
1903	...	...	7,958,496	07	8,185,952	14
1904	...	...	10,746,517	49	10,848,988	54
1905	...	...	11,657,423	75	10,976,525	37
1906	...	...	9,618,312	97	8,747,819	42
1907	...	...	10,023,016	49	9,499,692	80

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN TAXATION.

The Liquors Ordinance XIX. of 1906 not only introduced a higher scale of taxation on intoxicating liquors but rendered all beverages containing more than 2 per cent. of pure alcohol liable to duty.

The following table shows the most salient increases in taxation under the new Ordinance:—

Old Scale.			New Scale.		
	\$	c.		\$	c.
Warehouse					
licence ...	120	00 per annum.		1,000	00 per annum.
Retail licence	72	00 „		120	00 „
Public House:—					
1st Class ...	240	00 „		480	00 „
2nd Class .	120	00 „		360	00 „
3rd Class .	96	00 „		240	00 „
Temporary licence not exceeding 30 days:—					
1st Class ...	5	00 per day.	}	10	00 per day.
2nd Class .	2	00 „			
3rd Class .	1	00 „			
Distiller's					
licence ...	50	00 „		100	00 „
			Bhang		
			within		
			Muni-		
			cipal		
			limits	24	00 „
			Bhang		
			without		
			Muni-		
			cipal		
			limits	12	00 „
A fee of 50 cents is charged					
for the board supplied.					

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, 1907.

37

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

According to the accounts of the Colony the assets on 31st December, 1907, were \$5,559,163 and the liabilities \$1,822,596, or the assets exceeded the liabilities by \$3,736,567.

The assets were as follows:—

	\$	\$
Cash in the Treasury and banks...	1,937,076	
Investments	2,449,089	
Advances, &c.	281,718	
Other Governments	75,745	
Federated Malay States	18,198	
<i>Suspense Account.</i>		
British North Borneo copper coin	163,284	
Charges in connection with coin shipped for reminting	460,596	
Gold Standard Reserve Fund ...	173,457	
		5,559,163

and the liabilities were:—

Deposits	837,876
Drafts	996
Advances from Loan Account ...	336,176
Temporary Loan from Federated Malay States	500,000
Suspense Account, Interest, Cur- rency Commissioners	147,548
	1,822,596

Credit Balance \$3,736,567

The assets of the Currency Commissioners on 31st December, 1907, were as follows:—

	\$	\$
Cash in reserve	11,285,129	
Amount shipped for reminting...	3,487,500	
Amount to be recovered from Gold Standard Reserve Fund	196,045	
Investments	11,673,681	
		26,642,355

and the liabilities were:—

Deposits	23,685,212
Advances from Straits Settle- ments Loan Account	2,957,143
	26,642,355

PUBLIC DEBT, SHOWING PROVISION FOR REPAYMENT.

A loan of £5,000,000 was raised in 1907 under the Loan Ordinance IV. of 1907 which authorises the Colonial Govern-

ment to borrow a sum of £7,861,457 for the following services:—

	£
1. Payment of Award and Costs under "The Tanjong Pagar Dock Ordinance, 1905 "	3,390,000
2. Redemption of Outstanding Debentures of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board ...	151,670
3. Tanjong Pagar Construction Works:—	
(1) Main Wharf, Lagoon Dock and Graving Dock	2,092,600
(2) Prai River Dock—Improvements to, and reconstruction of, wharves ...	70,000
4. Singapore Harbour Works	1,264,000
5. Singapore Municipal Water Works ...	523,187
6. Penang Pier Extension and General Harbour Improvements and repayment of \$600,000 (£70,000) borrowed from the Federated Malay States on account of Penang Pier	200,000
7. Penang Municipal Loan—Improvement of Water Supply and other works ...	170,000
	£7,861,457

Provision is made for the repayment of this loan by means of a Sinking Fund which will come into operation in 1917, ten years from the date of the first issue of the debentures under the Ordinance. The payment of the award and costs was made on the 1st July, 1907.

The charge on account of interest on the Public Debt amounted to \$677,343 in 1907.

The total amount in local currency of the debt of the Colony on 31st December, 1907, was \$42,428,571 or $4\frac{1}{6}$ th the revenue of the Colony for the year but only $2\frac{1}{4}$ th of the aggregate of the Government, Tanjong Pagar, and Municipal revenues.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange remained firm through the first eight months of the year, telegraphic transfers being as high as 2s. $4\frac{3}{8}$ d. in January and never falling below 2s. 4d., but in September there was a fall which continued until in October Government was obliged to intervene. This was done by offering telegraphic transfers on London at 2s. $3\frac{3}{4}$ d. subsequently reduced to 2s. $3\frac{1}{8}$ d., and later by issuing gold here in exchange for

currency. By the end of the year the banks had taken £487,000 in telegraphic transfers and £335,000 in gold, and the year closed with a slight tendency to a rise in exchange.

CURRENCY.

The price of bar silver remained high for the first eight months of the year and advantage was taken of it to sell \$3,000,000 of the old dollars. Later the price of bar silver fell very fast and no more dollars were sold. New dollars were received during the year to the face value of \$10,767,500. They were by no means popular at first, and at the end of the year \$5,150,000 were remaining in the hands of the Currency Commissioners. The \$1 note continued to be popular; but there was some difficulty in distinguishing them from \$5 notes when dirty and at dusk, and to obviate this a second issue of these notes was overprinted with the figure 1 on each side of the word "One." This rendered the note easily distinguishable. As notes of the earlier issue were received at the Currency Commissioners' office they were retained and not again issued.

These notes will in future be printed on red paper, but up to the end of the year none of this issue had been received.

At the beginning of the year the dollars and notes in circulation, including the stocks held by the banks, and the Treasuries in the Colony and the Federated Malay States, amounted to \$46,991,332, of which \$22,222,560 were Government Currency Notes, \$1,325,795 Bank Notes, and the rest Straits Dollars. At the end of the year the corresponding figures were \$42,774,636, \$22,444,970 and \$1,716,125, respectively.

The excess of imports of dollars over the quantity of that coin exported was \$304,260 for Singapore and an excess of exports over imports of \$1,173,242 for Penang, in all an excess of exports of \$868,982 as against an excess of \$1,456,552 in 1906. No account is taken in these figures of small quantities of dollars taken away from or brought into the Colony by passengers. The greater part of the exports went to Sumatra.

During the year subsidiary silver coin to the value of \$414,357 was withdrawn from circulation, and the amount now in circulation is probably not much more than is required.

Seventy-five thousand and fifty dollars of copper coin was received during the year from the Calcutta Mint.

Early in the year it was decided to remove British North Borneo copper, which was circulating freely in the bazaars, from circulation; and by the end of July cents of this issue to the face value of \$160,651 were received at the Treasuries of the Colony in exchange for Straits Settlements cents.

The average bank note circulation was \$1,825,089, as compared with \$1,329,053 in 1906.

The average amount of Government currency notes in circulation for each month of the year was:—

	\$
January	22,551,000
February	22,700,657
March	23,232,146
April	23,858,418
May	24,140,566
June	24,893,484
July	27,333,265
August	27,333,910
September	27,009,488
October	26,522,454
November	24,378,637
December	22,635,449

MUNICIPAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of the three municipalities amounted to \$3,301,304, and their expenditure, including sums spent on loan works, to \$3,218,022. The usual comparative statements of revenue and expenditure and the debts of the Boards and a statement of the provision made for the repayment thereof are detailed below.

Revenue.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Singapore ...	1,977,064	2,074,526	2,149,951	2,243,354	2,306,749
Penang ...	568,695	751,288	819,531	892,431	906,139
Ma'acca...	34,801	37,459	39,717	89,408	88,416
Total ...	2,580,560	2,863,273	3,009,199	3,206,193	3,301,304

Expenditure.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Singapore ...	1,923,466*	1,960,065†	2,158,645	2,168,528	2,245,623
Penang ...	867,613°	709,501	1,191,142	1,451,187	872,223
Malacca...	32,592	34,349	41,780	80,335	100,176
Total ...	2,823,671	2,703,915	3,391,567	3,194,050	3,218,022

* Includes expenditure on Loan Works.

† Exclusive of sums expended on Loan Works.

Debts of Municipalities and Provisions for Repayment.

		\$	\$	
<i>Singapore—</i>				
Loan of 1889 at 5 per cent.	..	..	400,000	} Sinking Fund at 2 per cent.
" " 1890 at 6 per cent.	..	..	400,000	
" " 1893 at 5 per cent. (originally) ..	..	280,000		
" " less (redeemed)	..	202,000		
" " 1897 at 4 per cent. \$500,000 Bonds issued.	..	..	78,000	} Sinking Fund at 2 per cent.
			424,500	
" " 1898 at 4 per cent. \$500,000 Bonds issued.	..	..	28,000	} Sinking Fund at 2 per cent.
" " 1899 at 4 per cent.	..	..	400,000	
" " 1901 at 5 per cent.	..	..	1,000,000	} Sinking Fund at 2 per cent.
" " 1902 at 5 per cent.	..	..	400,000	
" " 1907 at 4½ per cent.	..	..	1,600,000	} Do. at 2 per cent.
Temporary Loan from F. M. S. Govt. at 4 per cent.	..	..	600,000	
Loan from Colonial Government	..	..	150,000	
			5,480,500	
<i>Penang—</i>				
Loan at 5 per cent. Debenture Stock. 1889	..	..	250,000	} Sinking Fund at 2 per cent.
" " at 6 per cent. do. 1891 ..	..	..	100,000	
" " at 5 per cent. do. 1901 ..	..	..	500,000	
" " at 5 per cent. do. 1904 ..	..	..	600,000	
" " at 4 per cent. Tramway loan, 1904	..	..	400,000	} Annual Repayments of \$20,000.
" " at 4½ per cent. from Colonial Government 1907 (Part).	..	..	150,000	
			2,000,000	} Sinking Fund at 2 per cent. per annum on amount of Loan (\$1,500,000) commencing in 1907.
<i>Malacca—</i>				
1885 Loan by Government \$25,000 at 3 per cent.	..	..	15,500	Annual repayments of \$500.

TANJONG PAGAR DOCK BOARD.

The Board on behalf of the Government undertook charge of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company's business and property after expropriation proceedings on July 1st, 1905.

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as follows:—

		Revenue.		Expenditure.	
		\$	c.	\$	c.
1903	...	5,227,994	40	3,997,700	92
1904	...	5,409,486	56	3,870,669	72
1905	...	5,420,354	26	4,072,004	79
1906	...	5,617,784	92	4,097,428	62
1907	...	6,145,579	25	4,484,476	20

The Board is liable for the repayment of \$1,300,000 in debenture stock. The repayment of \$250,000 falls due on April 10th, 1908, and \$1,050,000 will be repaid on 30th June, 1909.

The capital cost of the undertaking as represented by the award and including Government costs is the sum of \$29,003,149.45 on which the Board pays interest at 4 per cent. per annum out of revenue.

In addition, under the provisions of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Ordinance the Board is responsible to Government for the interest, sinking fund, management, and redemption of

such loans as will be required to carry out the new construction works, towards which £2,092,600 has been allocated in the Loan Ordinance of 1907 for the Main Wharf, Lagoon Dock, and Graving Dock, and £70,000 for the improvements to, and reconstruction of, the wharves at Prai River Dock.

The following figures taken from the Wharf Tonnage Returns indicate a steadily increasing business in the number of vessels which use the wharves and in the amount of cargo and coal handled:—

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Number of vessels	2,211	2,356	2,315	2,470	2,556
Tonnage	4,290,463	4,445,558	4,491,351	4,701,004	4,747,210
Coal inwards and outwards ...	1,021,033	1,098,052	1,139,042	1,205,580	1,111,682
Cargo inwards and outwards...	1,110,518	1,170,021	1,115,654	1,150,527	1,270,285

TRADE.

The sterling value of imports of merchandise into the Colony in 1907 (excluding Labuan and the Christmas and Cocos Islands) was £37,668,000, an advance of £585,000, or over $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. compared with 1906.

Exports of the same class valued £32,921,000, an increase of £106,000, or '3 per cent.

The dollar figures show as follows in millions:—

—	Average for five years ended 1905.	1906.	1907.
<i>Merchandise—</i>	\$	\$	\$
Imports	315·5	317·8	322·9
Exports	262·4	281·3	282·2
Total	577·9	599·1	605·1
<i>Treasure—</i>			
Imports	35·1	21·5	27·7
Exports	35·3	29·7	23·1
Total	70·4	51·2	50·8
Gross Aggregate Trade ...	648·3	650·3	655·9

The imports of merchandise from all places into Labuan valued \$1,223,032 in 1907, a decrease of \$247,356 below 1906,

and exports of the same valued \$1,254,542, a decline of \$156,761.

The imports from Singapore into Christmas Island valued \$157,555, an advance of \$6,132 compared with 1906, and exports to all places, including phosphates of lime, say at £2 per ton, about \$1,894,000, an advance of \$333,000.

Singapore imported from places other than the sister Settlements (Penang and Malacca) 72·6 per cent. of the import value of merchandise in 1906, an advance of ·3 per cent., Penang on the same basis 27·0 per cent., a fall of ·3 per cent., and Malacca the same as in 1906, ·4 per cent.

Of the exports of merchandise, Singapore sent 69·1 per cent., a fall of nearly ·2 per cent., compared with the previous year, Penang 30·5 per cent., a rise of nearly ·4 per cent., and Malacca ·4 per cent., a fall of ·2 per cent.

The only land traffic included in the figures is that between Malacca and the neighbouring State of Negri Sembilan.

From the United Kingdom, 11 per cent. of the total import value of merchandise was received, a fall of ·1 per cent.; from British Possessions and Protectorates 46·6 per cent., a fall also of ·1 per cent.; and from Foreign Countries 42·4 per cent., a rise of ·2 per cent.

The value of exports of merchandise to the United Kingdom was 24·0 per cent., an increase of ·4 per cent.; to British Possessions and Protectorates 26·3 per cent., an advance of 1·4 per cent.; and to Foreign Countries 49·7 per cent., a fall of 1·8 per cent.

Taking the last 20 years and dividing it into two decennial periods, the imports of all classes, principally manufactures and foods from the United Kingdom, the Continent of Europe and America, were valued as follows:—

	United Kingdom.	Foreign, European Countries, and America.	Total.
1888-1897	\$ 191·4	\$ 80·1	\$ 271·5
1898-1907	316·5	186·0	502·5
Increase	125·1	105·9	231·

Therefore the excess of British over foreign goods amounted in value in the first period to \$111,300,000 and in the last to \$130,500,000, showing on the percentage basis an advance of 65·4 per cent. for the United Kingdom and 132·2 per cent. for the Continent and the United States.

According to the classes into which our trade is divided, live animals, foods, drinks, and narcotics (Inter-Settlement trade included) averaged a value of \$128·8 million for the five years ended 1906, manufactured textiles \$42·4 million and other manufactured articles \$28·9 million compared with which 1907 fell in the first-named class by 1·4 per cent., and in the second by 6·4 per cent., but increased in the last-named by over 13 per cent.

Export values on the same basis show an average of \$79·8 million for tin, &c., and for all other raw materials \$50·5 million, being advances in 1907 of 4·6 per cent, and ·4 per cent., respectively.

An attempt to calculate the tonnage consigned to other places, but landed at Singapore for transshipment by other vessels, no figures of which are printed, shows that approximately 329,000 tons of cargo and 140,000 cases, casks, &c., of liquors were so treated in 1907, of which 74,856 tons and 129,838 cases, &c., of liquors were from Europe and America, the United Kingdom sending in this way 51,358 tons and 62,745 cases, the Continent of Europe and America 23,498 tons and 67,093 cases.

Large transshipments from the Dutch Indies comprised petroleum and benzine, tobacco and sugar.

IMPORTS.

The gross total imports into the three Settlements from all places and from each other valued 364½ million dollars, of which 335½ million represented merchandise.

A comparative statement of the quantities of the principal imports shows:—

—	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Pieces.	Pieces.		
Cotton piece goods ...	5,406,218	4,178,098	—	1,228,120
Silk piece goods ...	230,360	239,827	9,467	—
	Chests.	Chests.		
Opium ...	12,658	13,714	1,056	—
	Gallons	Gallons.		
Spirits ...	1,129,797	1,087,286	—	42,511
	Cases.	Cases.		
Petroleum ...	1,243,146	1,243,153	7	—
	Corges.	Corges.		
Sarongs ...	303,598	315,648	12,050	—
	Tons.	Tons.		
Coal ...	753,918	667,695	—	86,223
Rice ...	450,615	447,685	—	2,930
Fish, Dry and salted ...	55,205	49,731	—	5,474
Tobacco ...	7,311	6,317	—	994
Tin ore ...	52,026	57,198	5,172	—
Wheat flour ...	27,438	31,732	4,294	—
Sugar ...	71,929	54,950	—	16,979

There is an advance under merchandise of over 5 million dollars compared with 1906, animals, foods, drinks, and narcotics accounting for less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ million of the advance, Straits produce and raw materials generally for over $4\frac{3}{5}$ million dollars increase, manufactured metals for nearly 3 million dollars more, and miscellaneous manufactures for about $\frac{9}{10}$ th of a million more.

The manufactured textile class, however, fell off in value by $2\frac{2}{5}$ million dollars, and unmanufactured metals, chiefly tin and tin ore, by about the same amount.

The increase in foods, &c., is made up of larger values of rice, opium, padi, tapioca, sago, lard, live animals, provisions, and vegetables, important declines marking the trade in pepper and sugar, and to a less extent in arecanuts and coffee.

Copra alone accounted for more than three-fourths of the enhanced value under produce and raw materials, Para rubber giving the next important advance, followed by oils, gum copal, and gutta jelutong.

Borneo rubber, coal, gutta percha, sticklac, and gambodge fell off in value under the class.

Manufactured metals imported rose in the value of hardware and ironware, machinery, cycles, motor cars and parts, steel, tin plates, corrugated and bar iron, tools and implements, copperware, and brassware, &c., telegraph and telephone materials and zincware alone declining in value received.

Of manufactured goods not comprised in the textile or metal classes, increases are seen in musical instruments, leatherware, ships' stores, cabinetware, cement, earthenware and crockery, woodenware, photographic materials, and paints.

Matches, japanware, and paperware are the only declines of consequence, but japanese goods are now more properly declared under other items.

The decline in the value of tin and tin ore is attributable to smaller imports and lower prices.

Manufactured textiles show the enormous decline in the value of plain cottons imported of nearly $3\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars, prints also giving less value as well as gunnies, yarns, sarongs, silk piece goods and twine.

Dyed cottons, woollen cloth, apparel, umbrellas, cotton and woollen blankets and unenumerated textiles as well as Manila rope furnished advances in value.

Rice from Siam fell off in quantity but French Indo-China and Burma were larger suppliers than in 1906, and of the total import over 95 per cent. was re-exported.

The average import price of Benares opium slightly rose, an increase in import quantities meeting a decrease in exports.

Sugar from Java ports fell off and export movements corresponded, but from Penang to the United Kingdom a considerable increase in locally-produced cane is noted.

A decline is seen in the quantity and value of dried fish imported, Bangkok and French Indo-China supplying less.

It is estimated that over 75 per cent. of the wheat flour brought here is of Australian origin, 12 per cent. American, 8 per cent. Indian and the balance the product of a mill recently established at Hong Kong.

European tobacco is said to have had a record year in sales, imports of this class increasing from the United Kingdom, and an enormous increase from the United States of low-priced cigarettes was observed.

Although imports of European spirits fell off, there was a good market for gin, and the tendency was most marked in favour of better-class brandies since the introduction of the higher duties.

Malt liquors fell off in the total quantity imported, but Scotch brews found an increasing market at the expense of German makes.

Frozen meat brought from Australia considerably increased, the military now being supplied with this class.

Cement from the United Kingdom fell off largely owing, it is alleged, to the difficulty of procuring tonnage, notwithstanding increased rates of freight.

Candles of Burmese make have entirely taken the place of Continental.

A tendency in buyers towards better-class perfumery, especially French, is noticeable.

A large increase in the value of musical instruments, gramophone and records especially, is seen, as well as in cinematograph accessories and stereoscopic views, all included under photographic materials.

Earthenware and crockery sold freely, French tiles finding a good market.

An increasing quantity of Japan pressed glass found its way here.

The motor car industry has been exceedingly active as regards sales, but the Colonial market is limited and many of the places traded with do not afford facilities for their use.

There was for some time a considerable demand for mining machinery and agricultural implements, but the depressed state of the tin market checked expansion.

Coal imports decreased, especially from Australia and Bengal, but Japan sent 167,000 tons more, which is still, however, under the average of former years.

Much the same quantity of petroleum was received for sale locally, Sumatra and Borneo brands increasing, but American declining.

The quantity received for transshipment also varied little, except in benzine, which largely increased.

The distribution of all kinds of oil is now under the control of a combine, and competition being eliminated prices have risen by about 30 per cent. since the beginning of the year.

The value of imports for the last five years from the different countries was:—

('000 omitted.)

Merchandise.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
United Kingdom	34,405	32,580	33,758	35,210	35,636
British Possessions and Protectorates, &c.	166,458	156,439	151,526	148,558	150,302
Foreign Countries	136,933	136,849	134,493	134,083	136,930
Inter-Settlement	12,333	11,195	11,844	12,499	12,560
Total	350,129	337,063	331,621	330,350	335,428
Treasure	52,908	46,879	13,417	22,181	29,064
Grand Total	403,037	383,942	345,038	352,531	364,492

and the same according to classes shows the merchandise in dollars and sterling, '000 omitted, as follows:—

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics. {	\$ 134,472	128,746	127,505	125,528	126,991
Raw materials {	£ 11,830	12,336	13,011	14,645	14,816
Manufactured articles ... {	\$ 140,918	135,652	132,538	133,870	135,987
	£ 12,433	13,005	13,519	15,618	15,865
	\$ 74,739	72,665	71,577	70,951	72,450
	£ 6,619	6,964	7,317	8,278	8,453

EXPORTS.

The gross total exports from the three Settlements to all places and to each other valued over 319½ million dollars, of which over 295 million dollars represented merchandise.

A comparative statement of the quantities of the principal exports shows:—

	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.		
Sago	50,002	59,244	9,242	—
Coffee... ..	3,704	2,907	—	797
Gambier	38,976	34,158	—	4,818
Gums	31,321	36,963	5,642	—
Hides	5,711	5,400	—	311
Spices... ..	79,221	81,455	2,234	—
Tapioca	42,325	39,405	—	2,920
Copra	40,772	56,771	15,999	—
Rattans	26,460	27,696	1,236	—
Tin	59,091	56,518	—	2,573
	Cases.	Cases.		
Preserved pineapples ...	707,498	845,976	138,478	—
	lbs.	lbs.		
Para rubber (included in gums).	941,665	2,090,000	1,148,335	—

There is an increase of $1\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars in the value of goods sent out compared with the previous year, animals, foods, drinks, and narcotics accounting for nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars increase, while produce and raw materials fell by over one million dollars, and manufactured goods by \$220,000.

Under raw materials, metals, including tin and tin ore, fell off by $5\frac{7}{10}$ th million dollars, produce rising by nearly $4\frac{3}{10}$ th million, and raw textiles declining by \$213,000.

Foodstuffs and manufactured goods generally responded in sympathy when there were heavy fluctuations on the import side.

The volume of produce sent off represented by tin, gambier, copra, coffee, hides, sago, rattans, tapioca, gums and spices amounted to 400,516 tons, an increase of 22,933, of which copra alone accounted for 16,000 tons.

Taking the average output for the five years ended 1906 increases are seen in 1907 in the exports of all the principal articles except tapioca, gambier, coffee, and tin.

The prices for the different classes of Straits produce show at the close of the year a fall compared with those at the beginning in tin, cube gambier, copra, pepper, rattans, hides, tapioca, and Borneo and Para rubbers.

The reduced demand for tin, exports falling by $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in volume, combined with the financial crisis in the United States, caused prices to fall, in spite of Chinese holders retaining stocks and the loss at the close of the year was about £70 per ton over prices at the beginning.

Copra has shown enormous expansion all over the East, but the reduction in homeward freights as well as an alleged

stricter adherence to the Conference rates at Macassar and Java ports has probably attracted the article to Singapore.

The drop in the price of Santos coffee made it profitable to import here and sell in competition with that from the Dutch Indies.

Imports of tin ore from Australia rose largely, but smaller supplies were received from the Dutch mines.

The preserving and tinning of pineapples is a large and important local industry and greatly increased quantities were exported, but prices have been very poor and the markets are said to be largely overstocked.

Sago gave increased exports but tapioca fell off, Malacca territory producing less.

Black pepper exports increased though prices for both kinds have fallen considerably.

The output of gambier is slowly decreasing in face of substitutes now used, and a natural disinclination to grant land for this purpose owing to its injurious effects on the soil. At the same time the decline in output has been accompanied by a fall in price.

The great increase in Para rubber, about 2,090,000 lbs. being sent out valued at nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, is owing to increased production in the Federated Malay States.

The United Kingdom received 78 per cent. of the whole, Ceylon, Belgium, Australia, Denmark, the United States, and Japan taking the balance between them.

Borneo rubber decreased in volume sent out and gutta percha advanced, but mostly in the lower grades, while the output of gutta jelutong rose considerably.

An increase in the trade of gum copal is apparent, but benjamin exports declined.

The value of exports for the last five years to the different countries was:—

(’000 omitted.)

Merchandise.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
United Kingdom	55,304	54,202	56,851	66,493	67,712
British Possessions and Protectorates, &c.	60,287	54,603	65,140	70,062	74,236
Foreign Countries	156,618	146,633	143,193	144,718	140,231
Inter-Settlement	11,408	9,720	12,404	12,568	12,870
Total	283,617	265,158	277,588	293,841	295,049
Treasure	53,081	61,035	18,660	20,008	24,517
Grand Total	336,698	326,193	296,248	324,449	319,566

and the same according to classes shows the merchandise in dollars and sterling, '000 omitted, as follows:—

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Live animals, food, drinks, {	\$ 117,168	106,564	112,082	116,665	119,127
and narcotics. }	£ 10,313	10,211	11,426	13,611	13,898
Raw materials ... }	\$ 131,831	132,631	127,458	135,188	134,153
	£ 11,344	11,666	13,018	15,772	15,651
Manufactured articles ... }	\$ 33,819	34,399	38,048	41,989	41,769
	£ 2,980	3,300	3,889	4,899	4,873

TRADE BY COUNTRIES.

The imports from the United Kingdom valued over 35½ million dollars, an advance of \$426,000.

The larger advances took place in manufactured metals seen in such articles as machinery, ironware and hardware, tin plates, steel, cycles, and motor cars, and corrugated iron.

Woollen cloth, sarongs, and sewing-thread advanced in the textile class, but cotton piece goods declined by 2¼ million dollars, and dyed yarn by \$326,000.

Exports to the United Kingdom valued 67⅞th million dollars, an advance of 1½th million.

Para rubber values rose by 1⅔th million dollars followed by tapioca, sugar, copra, sago flour, hides, and coconut oil.

Tin, gutta percha, and Borneo rubber were responsible for the principal declines.

The value of imports from the Continent of Europe rose to nearly 18 million dollars, an increase of about 1⅞th million.

The order of importance in the advance was Germany, Italy, Austria, Holland, Spain, and Russia.

France, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, with Belgium, sent less value of goods.

German supplies increased in apparel and hosiery, hardware and ironware, woollen cloth, and milk.

Milk and cottons from Italy also advanced, as well as Sarongs, hardware and earthenware from Holland, hardware and ironware and cement from Austria, salt and tinned goods from Spain, cement from Russia, and tram and rail materials, paints and cottons from Belgium.

The declines are seen in wire nails and cement from Germany, apparel and sarongs from Italy, cottons from Holland, milk, perfumery, and telephone materials from Belgium, sugar from Austria, brandy and Swiss milk from France, cement from Denmark, and matches and milk from Sweden and Norway.

Exports to the Continent of Europe valued over 34½ million dollars, an increase of over 2 million.

To Russia, Italy, Belgium, Spain, and Germany increased values in that order were sent, while Austria, Denmark, France, Holland, and Sweden and Norway took reduced values.

The value of produce sent to France rose in copra, but fell in tin, flake tapioca, gambier, rattans, coffee, illipi nuts, and white pepper.

Increased exports of gutta percha, copra, gum copal, pearl tapioca, tin, black pepper, and rattans were sent to Germany, but a large decline is noted in Borneo and India rubbers and white pepper.

Enhanced values of tin, copra, and black pepper were sent to Italy, copra and tin to Russia, copra and Para rubber to Belgium, and copra to Spain.

Declines in the export of copra, pepper, and tin to Austria, white pepper to Belgium, and of copra, black pepper, and gambier to Denmark are apparent.

Imports from the United States of America valued nearly 3¾ million dollars, an advance of \$894,000, the following articles giving advanced values: cigarettes, tallow and lard, metals excluding machinery, wheat flour, oilman's stores, and perfumery.

Machinery and petroleum received fell off in value.

Exports to the United States valued 25¾ million dollars, a fall of over 9¼ million.

Tin alone fell by 7¾ million dollars, followed by gambier, pepper, Borneo rubber, tapioca flour, rattans, coffee, &c.

The increases were in preserved pineapples, gum copal, tapioca, pearl and flake, and gutta jêlutong.

Imports from British India and Burma valued nearly 42 million dollars, an advance of 1¾ million.

The value of coal and gunny bags from Calcutta fell off, but opium increased.

Rice from Burma ports, cattle, goats' skins, and oilcakes from Madras and dyed yarn, fruits, wax, and curry-stuffs from Bombay all rose in value, but sarongs and cottons fell in value from Madras ports.

Exports to British India and Burma valued 13½ million dollars, an increase of \$96,000 only.

Declines are seen in arecanuts and sticklac to Calcutta, arecanuts and raw silk to Burma, coffee and gum benjamin to Bombay, and goats' skins, cottons, and arecanuts to Madras ports.

Increased values were sent to Calcutta of tin and pearl sago, provisions, fish, matches, curry-stuffs, and sarongs to Burma ports, and tin and arecanuts to Bombay.

From the Federated Malay States the value received was 73 $\frac{1}{10}$ th million dollars, a fall of over 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ million, but these figures exclude the rail traffic between Perak and Penang.

Tin in slabs declined by over 6 $\frac{1}{10}$ th million dollars received, followed by coffee and sugar, but were met by heavy advances in tin ore, Para rubber, pearl tapioca, and copra.

Exports to the Federated Malay States valued 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ th million dollars, an advance of 4 $\frac{1}{10}$ th million.

Rice, cottons, swine, cigars, and cigarettes, kachang oil, beans and peas, and ironware all rose in value sent and to a less extent sugar provisions, milk, bran, fish, coconut oil, paperware, and medicines.

Malt liquors, apparel and hosiery, and cattle values sent fell off.

The value of imports from the Dutch Indies was over 49 million dollars, a fall of 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ th million.

From Sumatra black pepper and arecanuts, Borneo and india rubbers, gutta percha, illipi nuts, gum benjamin, wax, and tobacco all declined.

Copra, gutta percha, and india rubber advanced in value from Dutch Borneo, but Borneo rubber, jelutong, and rattans fell off.

Sugar from Java declined by nearly 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, but curry-stuffs, sarongs, arecanuts, tobacco, black pepper, and birds' nests also show reduced values, tapioca flour being the only increase of importance.

Copra increased from the Celebes, including Moluccas ports and the Dutch Islands, as well as gum copal, hides, and rattans, and greater values of dried fish and copra were received from the smaller Dutch Islands.

Tin ore, however, fell off from the islands, as well as slab tin, pepper, and fresh fish.

Greater values of copra and swine are seen from Bali and Lambok, but less of coffee, cattle, and raw cotton.

Black pepper from Acheen increased in value, arecanuts falling off, while from the Natunas and Anambas Islands copra advanced, but cube gambier and white pepper from Rhio continued to decline.

The value of exports to the Dutch Indies valued nearly 40 $\frac{3}{4}$ th million, a decline of about 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ th million dollars.

Rice, fish, coconut oil, and gunnies declined to Java ports, lubricating oil alone showing an increase, while increases, though small, were numerous to Sumatra, seen especially in cottons, rice, opium, coconut oil, and sarongs, tin alone showing a reduced value sent.

Opium, gambier, and matches to the Celebes and Moluccas fell off, but cottons rose as well as rice to the smaller islands.

While more rice was sent to Dutch Borneo cottons and sarongs show decreased values, there being, however, several small advances in other goods.

Values of cottons, opium, and fireworks to Achinese ports fell off, and to Rhio opium also declined, but rice to the Natunas and Anambas groups gave advanced values.

The variations in goods sent to Bali and Lombok were not of much moment.

From the Malay Peninsula, excluding the Federated Malay States, viz., Johore, Kelantan, and Trengganu, as well as the States more or less in the Siamese sphere of influence, viz., Patani and Singora, imports valued nearly 13 million dollars, an increase of \$446,000.

Black pepper, tin ore, gutta percha, and fresh fruits from Johore all fell in value, but copra, arecanuts, and gambier increased.

From Kelantan fish, copra, arecanuts, and padi gave enhanced values, cattle alone decreasing; from Trengganu padi and tin ore increased but black pepper declined; and while cattle and padi from Patani, and swine and padi from Singora advanced, tin from Patani fell off.

Exports to these places valued over $6\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, an advance of \$670,000.

Rice values rose to Johore, but railway materials fell off; yarn and sarongs rose to Kelantan and yarn to Patani, but the value of rice to Trengganu declined.

Imports from Siam and Siam West Coast valued nearly 30 million dollars, a fall of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ million.

Rice from Bangkok fell off by $2\frac{7}{10}$ th million, followed by declines in the values of fish and sticklac and tin and firewood from the places on the coast, but tin ore, swine, and rice rose from the last named.

Exports to Siam and Siam West Coast valued $17\frac{2}{3}$ th million dollars, a fall of \$444,000.

Gunnies, sarongs, cotton piece goods, yarn, sugar, and arecanuts to Bangkok declined, but opium and coconut oil values advanced.

Cottons and rice rose in value to Siam West Coast.

The imports from Hong Kong and China valued $28\frac{1}{3}$ rd million dollars, a rise of $1\frac{7}{10}$ th million.

From Hong Kong tobacco, kachang oil, lard, tin, preserved vegetables, and provisions rose in value, but jewellery, silk piece goods, matches, and paperware fell off.

Kachang oil, preserved vegetables, lard, and joss sticks, and paper increased in value from China, twine imports declining.

Exports to Hong Kong and China valued $16\frac{2}{3}$ th million dollars, a fall of over a million.

Tin, rice, and rattan values rose to Hong Kong, but declined in sugar and sugar-candy, pepper, preserved pines, Benares opium, raw cottons, gunnies, bêche-de-mer, and tobacco.

Tin and rice values increased to China, while opium, sugar, preserved fruits, and birds' nests fell off.

From French Indo-China imports rose principally in rice, the value of swine declining and exports also advanced seen in greater values of gunnies, lubricating oil, and arecanuts, but exports of grey yarn, gambier, and wax fell off.

Imports declined from British North Borneo and Sarawak while exports rose.

Gutta jelutong, sago flour, gutta percha, and rattans from Sarawak increased in value, but white pepper, Borneo rubber, and coal declined, while rice and cotton piece goods sent rose in value.

Rattans fell off from British North Borneo, but goods sent give an increase in the total.

Imports from Japan increased by two million dollars seen in greater values of coal, fish, umbrellas, apparel and hosiery, and carriage materials, chiefly jinrikishas received, but japan-ware declined as well as silk piece goods.

An advance in exports of \$204,000 is recorded, Borneo rubber and rice accounting for the increase.

OBSERVATIONS ON TRADE.

The condition of trade in 1907 affords small grounds for satisfaction.

Although exports generally show greater volume than in 1906, prices were lower except in a few articles, and the sales of cotton piece goods were below normal both as to turnover and prices.

The low prices of produce, the slump in the tin market, Chinese speculation in eastern exchange, and the calling in of capital by the Indian chetties or money-lenders, all contributed to depress the local market.

Up to the close of September, metals and hard goods generally were benefited by the rising home prices, but a check was then given, and some expensive stocks were on hand in a financially weak bazaar, evidenced by several large dealers being forced to suspend payment.

Imports of piece goods were lower in quantity than in any year since 1896, giving a fall of 17 per cent. in quantity compared with the annual average for the decade ended 1897 and 16·4 per cent. compared with that for the decade ended 1907.

Stocks of textiles especially are still unduly high in certain classes, and a disquieting increase is observable in the direct

shipments from the United Kingdom to Bangkok, our best market in grey and white goods as well as prints.

It is, however, stated by the Registrar of Imports and exports in his Annual Report that this abnormal advance did not appear to be in answer to any great demand, but was due to the attempts of new firms to push a business by giving extended credits and selling at cutting rates, and the stocks of the class are said to be still heavy, being only slowly absorbed.

The proximity of Singapore to Bangkok, its ability to satisfy demands at short notice and in small quantities of the most favoured class of goods, in conjunction with the strong position of the large Chinese rice merchants here, are advantages of which Singapore cannot well be deprived.

The Federated Malay States, Sarawak, and Borneo, and the East Coast of the Malay Peninsula are promising markets for our imports.

The import of European metals averaged \$8,178,000 for the decade ended 1906 compared with which 1907 showed 41 per cent. more value, but the figures have been to some extent affected by the imports of materials for the construction of important Government and Municipal works now in progress.

The United Kingdom sent metals to the value of 7 $\frac{8}{10}$ th million dollars, a rise of about 1 $\frac{7}{10}$ th million, or 27 per cent. over 1906 imports, the Continent of Europe over 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ th million, an advance of \$688,000, or about the same percentage of increase, and the United States of America half-a-million dollars, an advance of \$154,000, or over 43 per cent.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

During the year a considerable increase in the cultivation of Para rubber was noticeable throughout the Colony, every suitable bit of land being planted up with it. Indigo is still largely cultivated in the district round Thomson Road and Serangoon Road, and shows no signs of decrease.

A large increase in the cultivation of native vegetables is noticeable and the fruit crop was unusually heavy. Cocoonut plantations were extended to the Tampinis River.

Trials of the cultivation of ground-nuts and soy-beans were made in the Serangoon district in Singapore. Soy is manufactured largely in Singapore from beans imported from China. If a strain could be procured which would fruit well in this climate, it would form a valuable industry.

Pineapple cultivation remained steady, no great progress in it was seen. Sago still continues in demand in Singapore. Ramie and sansevieria are being cultivated to some considerable extent in Province Wellesley and Johore.

Lemon-grass has been widely cultivated as a catch crop between coconuts, as well as in many places through rubber.

The rubber experiments in the Botanic Gardens, Singapore, were continued.

The planting of rubber by European companies in Province Wellesley has continued to extend notwithstanding a decline in the price of rubber.

The area planted in Penang Island still continues insignificant. One application for 500 acres of hill land on the west side of the island to be planted with rubber was received from a Chinese syndicate.

The export of Para rubber from Penang in 1907 amounted to 324,464 lbs. against 79,968 lbs. in 1906. Very little of this was from the Settlement of Penang. The Gardens Department are experimenting with *Manicoba* rubber at Tasek Glugor, in Province Wellesley.

The prices of tapioca have been gradually falling from the high level reached in 1906 and the area under cultivation is diminishing. This product comes chiefly from the Malakoff and Alma Estates, in Province Wellesley, and from Chinese-owned estates in South Kedah, adjoining the Province Wellesley border. It is largely planted as a catch crop with rubber.

1907 was a good year for coconuts and copra. Sugar cultivation is decreasing, the outturn for 1907 from Province Wellesley is stated to have been 7,000 tons against 11,000 of the previous year.

The clove and nutmeg plantations are gradually disappearing, but there are still many fine clove gardens on the hills—all owned by Chinese.

The fruit season was a very good one.

The rice crops in several Mukims both in Penang and Province Wellesley were reported to have failed entirely. Nowhere was the yield better than 500 gantangs per acre—the average was probably below 300. (8 gantangs=1 bushel.)

Penang was well represented at the Agricultural Show at Kuala Kangsar in August, 1907, and many of the exhibits took prizes.

LAND GRANTS.

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants issued and the premia paid for the same during the last five years are as follows:—

Singapore.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Area granted	a. r. p. 844 1 22 sq. ft. 502 717	a. r. p. 469 0 37 sq. ft. 284 768	a. r. p. 169 2 34 sq. ft. 46,451	a. r. p. 5,895 0 23 sq. ft. 805,636	a. r. p. 119 3 28 sq. ft. 327,687
Number of statutory grants issued.	197	77	97	237	63
Premia paid	\$189,040'60	\$35,035'50	\$185'60	\$69,506'30	\$12,623'00

Penang.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Area granted	a. r. p. 2,593 0 09 sq. ft. 36,522	a. r. p. 2,293 3 36 sq. ft. 5,450	a. r. p. 1,102 2 31	a. r. p. 1,487 0 20	a. r. p. 6,927 3 35 sq. ft. 300,916
Number of statutory grants issued.	165	295	470	301	352
Premia paid	\$115,351'99	\$1,654'26	\$932'25	\$2,279'70	\$10,532'68

Malacca.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Area granted	a. r. p. 6,104 2 34	a. r. p. 3,230 1 24 sq. ft. 2,433	a. r. p. 4,137 3 25	a. r. p. 3,248 0 34	a. r. p. 10,451 1 16 sq. ft. 9,159
Number of statutory grants issued.	163	156	113	92	*270
Premia paid	\$21,409'06	\$13,200	\$15,233'85	\$45,042'75	\$51,774'70

* 249 Statutory Grants.

21 Mining Leases.

The total land revenue collected in Singapore was \$168,895 compared with \$147,411 in 1906.

The settlement of about 56 acres of land in Kampong Glam held under defective titles was proceeded with, and by the end of the year was approaching completion.

The demarcation of the island in connection with the re-survey was completed in August, none of the re-survey sheets had been published by the end of the year, but the whole town and a large part of the country has been completed, and the sheets will be issued block by block in 1908.

Two valuable properties were acquired for the Harbour Improvement Scheme, 199,355 square feet at Mount Wallich at a cost of \$380,000, and 2 roods and 17 poles off Tanjong Pagar Road at a cost of \$50,000.

In Penang the land market remained extremely dull throughout the year.

Government purchased the property known as "Huntley Lodge," in Macalister Road, for \$22,500, and a large portion of the Ayer Rajah Estate for \$18,000.

A large portion of the Sungai Pinang Reclamation was available for sale, but only one application was received. It was decided, owing to the dull state of the market, to defer the question of putting up some of the land to auction.

In Malacca, there has of recent years been a distinct appreciation in the value of land, especially in the neighbourhood of the town. And this is true not only of house property but also of agricultural holdings. High prices were the rule in 1907.

The registration of "customary" lands in Malacca has made but slow progress, and cannot be completed for some years yet. It was rendered necessary by the recent re-survey of a number of districts.

SHIPPING.

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 20,055,874, as compared with 19,711,498 in 1906. Fuller particulars will be found in the appended comparative table.

Nationality.	1906.				1907.			
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total Tonnage.	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.	Total Tonnage.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
American ..	7,422	—	—	7,422	4,144	—	—	4,144
Austrian ..	206,850	178,330	—	384,980	234,527	194,646	—	429,173
British ..	7,510,887	3,932,572	619,230	11,762,759	7,120,888	3,966,438	554,762	11,644,088
Chinese ..	—	—	—	—	2,856	—	—	2,856
Danish ..	159,709	20,442	—	180,151	48,622	13,086	—	61,708
Dutch ..	1,354,996	217,192	20,042	1,592,230	1,484,577	233,178	13,016	1,730,771
French ..	779,929	42,552	—	822,481	904,268	24,278	—	928,546
German ..	1,048,987	992,432	332	2,941,741	1,836,444	1,005,156	—	2,841,600
Italian ..	138,371	73,584	538	212,543	126,684	68,844	—	195,528
Japanese ..	479,706	148,990	—	628,696	861,747	293,880	—	1,155,627
Norwegian ..	438,964	120,738	—	559,702	366,983	80,462	—	447,445
Russian ..	319,954	5,512	—	325,466	313,000	22,038	—	335,038
Sarawak ..	94,570	—	—	94,570	95,768	—	—	95,768
Siamese ..	35,577	—	—	35,577	39,523	—	—	39,523
Spanish ..	140,934	—	—	140,934	153,366	—	—	153,366
Swedish ..	17,672	4,574	—	22,246	6,336	4,360	—	10,696
Total ..	13,334,338	5,736,918	640,242	19,711,498	13,579,730	5,908,366	567,778	20,055,874

The increase over 1906 is therefore 344,376 tons.

The principal increases are:—Japanese, 526,931 tons; Dutch, 138,541 tons; French, 106,065 tons; and Austrian, 44,193 tons.

The decreases are:—British, 118,676 tons; Danish, 118,443 tons; Norwegian, 112,257 tons; German, 100,141 tons; Italian, 17,015 tons; and Swedish, 11,548 tons.

The great increase in Japanese tonnage is due to extra steamers put on the Japan to Bombay run and to her recovery from the effects of the war. The increase in 1907 as compared with 1903 (the year before the war) is 324,587 tons only.

The French and Dutch increases are accounted for by new large steamers having been added to the lines trading between Europe and the far East.

Comparative Statement of Merchant Vessels Inwards and Outwards for last Five Years.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Total tonnage entered and cleared.	18,404,383	18,267,499	18,890,600	19,711,498	20,055,874

It will thus be seen that the tonnage as compared with 1903 has increased by 1,651,491 tons.

Native Craft and Steamers under 50 tons.

—	1906.		1907.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Arrivals	15,649	737,921	15,210	709,898
Departures	15,783	746,880	15,379	721,738
Total	31,432	1,484,801	30,589	1,431,636

The decrease as compared with 1906 is 53,165 tons.

Comparative Statement of Tonnage of Native Craft and Steamers under 50 tons, Entered and Cleared, for last Five Years.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Total tonnage entered and cleared.	1,620,365	1,566,976	1,544,284	1,484,801	1,431,636

As compared with 1903 this native craft tonnage has decreased by 188,729 tons. This decrease is probably due to the fact that steamers of medium tonnage now call at ports which were not visited formerly.

The amount realized by light dues was \$221,482.85.

The total collections under this head for the last five years are as follows:—

					\$	c.
1903	...	...	...	...	209,649	35
1904	...	...	...	...	213,203	90
1905	...	...	...	...	222,997	61
1906	...	...	...	...	223,387	94
1907	...	...	...	...	221,482	85

During the year seven new steamers with a tonnage of 620 tons and sailing vessels of 2,114 tons were registered under the Imperial and Colonial Shipping Acts. Six new sailing vessels of 634 tons were registered under Ordinance V. of 1883; also 859 of 6,720 tons under Ordinance VIII. of 1872.

LEGISLATION.

Of the thirty-seven Ordinances passed during the year, seventeen were amendments to existing Ordinances. Three dealt with supply, three with loans, one (the Repeals Ordinance) was merely passed to repeal a number of obsolete laws, and the remainder were either new laws or re-enactments in a consolidated or improved form of existing laws.

The most important of the new Ordinances are the Courts Ordinance and the Civil Procedure Code, which were framed by a Committee appointed by the Governor for that purpose. The functions and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court have been entirely re-modelled and assimilated with that of England, and an attempt has been made to consolidate the whole of the law relating to the legal profession. The most important change, however, in the legal system, is the inauguration of District Courts, with civil jurisdiction up to \$500 and a limited jurisdiction in cases between landlord and tenant, administration actions, grants of probate, and proceedings relating to distress for rent.

A Bill will be introduced into the Legislative Council to give the Supreme Court jurisdiction in divorce cases.

The Civil Procedure Code, 1907, adopted the English law so far as it is applicable; but where the law is not covered by the Rules and Orders relating to the general practice and procedure of the Supreme Court in England, the existing law has been preserved.

"The Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Ordinance, 1907," was necessitated by the passing of "The Courts Ordinance, 1907," the primary object being the adaptation of "The Criminal Procedure Code, 1900," to the new system of District Courts inaugurated by the Courts Ordinance, 1907. A com-

prehensive chapter dealing with the procedure in cases of *Habeas Corpus*, was inserted in order to carry out the provisions of the Imperial Extradition Acts.

Another important Ordinance was "The Stamp Ordinance, 1907," which was introduced with a view to raising revenue, more especially from the death duties on large estates. The Ordinance was the subject of careful scrutiny on the part of the local Chambers of Commerce and of the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council, and the rates of duty were in several cases reduced to meet their views. The Ordinance did not come into force until February 1st, 1908.

Labuan became part of the Settlement of Singapore on January 1st, 1907, and three Ordinances were passed to place its legal status on a satisfactory footing.

It was necessary to raise a loan of £7,861,457 for the purpose of paying the Tanjong Pagar Award, redeeming the outstanding debentures of the Board, constructing the works at Tanjong Pagar and Singapore Harbour, and other purposes. Part of this sum has been lent to the Municipalities of Singapore and Penang to enable them to undertake works of public utility and to enlarge the existing Water Works. Two Ordinances extending the borrowing powers of the Municipal Commissioners of Singapore and Penang were accordingly passed to carry into effect the purposes of the loan.

It was found necessary to deal by law with the use of cocaine and similar drugs amongst the coolie classes, and "The Morphine Ordinance, 1904," of which the scope was confined to that particular drug, was accordingly repealed, and a new Ordinance was passed under the title of "The Deleterious Drugs Ordinance, 1907," to prevent the illicit use of all drugs which the Governor in Council might consider physically and morally injurious. I regret to say that despite the vigilance of the police, the large number of convictions and the deterrent sentences imposed by the magistrates, the profits of the pernicious trade are so large that the number of professional injectors is on the increase. A Bill on somewhat more stringent lines than the present Ordinance will be introduced into the Legislative Council to cope with this evil.

The Government of the Federated Malay States having expressed its desire to restrict the practice of medicine to qualified persons, the Medical Registration Ordinance, 1905, was repealed. A new Ordinance under a similar title consolidated the law in this respect, and provision was made for the establishment of a Medical Council common to the Colony and Federated Malay States.

In order to procure a cheap and abundant labour force to cope with the increased demand for labour caused by the rapid development of the rubber industry in the Malay Peninsula, a representative Committee was appointed by the Governments of the Colony and Federated Malay States to enquire

into and report upon the best system of recruiting labour from the Madras Presidency. In accordance with the recommendation of this Committee, the Tamil Immigration Fund Ordinance has instituted a fund, subscribed by the estates which employ Tamil labour, to provide for direct recruiting in India by the officers of this Government and for cheap and regular passages by the British India line of steamers. The Government has also been in correspondence with the Government of Netherlands India with a view to obtaining the importation of Javanese labour for employment on rubber and agricultural estates.

Owing to the growth of the savings bank system and the economic development of the Malay Peninsula, "The Government Savings Bank Ordinance, 1879," had become obsolete. It was necessary to repeal the old law and to legislate afresh for modern requirements.

The only other Ordinance to which it is necessary to refer is "The Municipal Ordinance Amendment Ordinance, 1907." It is based on the report of Professor W. J. Simpson, who was engaged to enquire into and advise upon the various measures necessary for promoting the health of the towns.

A Bill codifying the law relating to Trustees and incorporating the latest English legislation on the subject has been drafted by the Attorney-General, and an Ordinance bringing the law regarding companies up to date is also in course of preparation.

The Merchant Shipping Bill, which was sent to the Board of Trade at the end of 1905 before the passing of the Imperial Merchant Shipping Act, 1906, was received from that department at the beginning of this year. The work of incorporating the suggestions of the Board of Trade and such of the provisions of the Imperial Act as are applicable to the Colony is being steadily proceeded with, and it is hoped that before long this measure will be introduced into the Legislative Council.

EDUCATION.

Nearly all the schools of the Colony are vernacular schools for Malays, under the direct control of Government. All the expenses of these schools, which are 173 in number, are defrayed by Government and they provide free tuition in Malay to some eleven thousand one hundred and forty-two pupils. The remaining schools are, with the exception of three which are controlled and financed by Government, aided-schools managed by private bodies, and receive grants-in-aid from Governments.

The net expenditure on Government Schools was \$51,195.27, on aided-schools (English, Anglo-Tamil, Tamil and Chinese),

\$106,010.20, and on Government Vernacular Schools \$83,430.69.

The cost of the Malacca Training College for Malay teachers during the year under review was \$8,065.83. The value of this institution is considerable, and it produces very good teaching material for the vernacular schools. The demand, however, for trained teachers, more especially in Penang and Province Wellesley, is much in excess of the supply, and it will be some years before the schools in these Settlements are staffed exclusively by trained men.

The commercial and science classes at the Raffles Institution have made satisfactory progress during the year.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

Practically all the hospitals of the Colony are under Government management, while the estate hospitals maintained by the planters are under Government supervision. The total number of admissions to the hospitals, exclusive of the lunatic asylum, was 26,196, as against 24,696 in 1906. In Singapore 197 patients were admitted into the lunatic asylum, the number during the previous year being 231.

The number of patients treated in the hospitals was 28,708, of whom 1,193 were Europeans: the corresponding figures for 1906 were 27,340 and 1,103, respectively. Of these the deaths numbered 3,688 (74 being Europeans); the rate of mortality shows a percentage of 12.85 of the total number of cases treated as compared with 14.01 recorded for 1906. These figures include 483 cases, with 57 deaths, at the lunatic asylum.

The inmates of the various Leper Hospitals, the majority of whom are quartered at Pulau Jerejak, numbered 389 at the close of the year as compared with 391 in 1906. One hundred and thirty-five deaths occurred as against 154 in 1906.

REFORMATORY.

The number of boys in the Reformatory at the end of the year was 68: the highest number during the year was 68 and the lowest 53. The new permanent buildings, to accommodate 120, were finished early in 1906. The health of the inmates has been very good throughout the year. Instruction is given at the school in English and Romanized Malay, and at the workshops in tailoring, carpentering, and shoemaking. Bread-making and vegetable planting were introduced during the year, and the boys make their own bread and grow their own vegetables. The expenditure amounted to \$9,105 as against \$8,391 in 1906.

SAVINGS BANK.

The transactions in this branch amounted to \$415,926 (Deposits), and \$416,442 (Withdrawals), as compared with \$393,889 and \$385,013 in 1906. The amount standing to the credit of depositors at the end of the year was \$598,882 (in 1906, \$582,236).

The investments at the close of the year stood at \$618,620 as compared with \$587,438 at the corresponding period of the previous year: the details are as follows:—

	\$
India 3½ per cent. Rupee Paper ...	368,120
Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock, bearing interest at 5 per cent. ...	58,149
Singapore Municipal Debenture Stock, bearing interest at 4 per cent. ...	74,300
Fixed Deposits at the Chartered Bank, at 4 per cent. ...	60,000
Cape Stock, at 3 per cent. ...	8,516
Queensland Stock, at 3 per cent. ...	16,212
Zanzibar Government 3 per cent. Guaranteed Loan ...	15,535
Cardiff Corporation Stock, at 3 per cent. ...	17,788
Total ...	<u>618,620</u>

POLICE.

The police force numbers over 2,000 men, of whom more than 300 are Sikhs.

Sixty-six boys have passed through the training depôt at Malacca for the instruction of recruits since it was opened in October, 1906.

PRISONS.

The daily average number of prisoners in the various prisons during 1906 and 1907 were as follows:—

		1906.	1907.
Singapore	{ Criminal	920·00	852·00
	{ Civil	53·90	53·35
Penang	{ Criminal	300·91	208·81
	{ Civil	25·91	18·58
Malacca	{ Criminal	24·07	24·98
	{ Civil	9·53	11·65

The consistent practice of banishing habitual criminals (358 in 1907) has had the salutary effect of reducing the number of inmates and of checking the re-admissions of old offenders.

The health of the prisoners was uniformly good, the number of deaths being at Singapore 20, at Penang 18, and at Malacca nil.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Twenty murders and seventy-two gang robberies were reported during the year; of the latter 35 were proved in the preliminary investigation to be false.

There was on the whole less serious crime than in 1906, and this is attributed in a great measure to the banishment of habitual criminals.

One hundred and sixty-four persons as against 201 in 1906 were tried before the Supreme Court, 97 being convicted and 67 acquitted. Gang robbery and offences against property were the principal crimes. The lower Courts also had to deal with a smaller number of cases as compared with the previous year. The Bench Courts convicted 400 and acquitted 313 persons (total 713, in 1906, 864) whilst out of a total number of 48,736 who appeared before the Police and Marine Magistrates' Courts 36,641 were convicted and 11,008 were acquitted, the remainder being either committed for trial before the higher Courts or else not yet tried at the end of the year.

In 1906, 54,823 persons were brought before the Police and Marine Magistrates' Courts.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the Colony was 619,796 the figures given by the Census of 1901 being 572,249. Sixteen thousand one hundred and eighty-one births and 24,220 deaths were registered as against 15,434 and 23,140, respectively, in 1906.

The death-rate was 39·07 per mille of the population. The rate in 1906 was 37·82.

The birth-rate was 26·11 per mille, as compared with 25·23 in 1906.

The deaths due to the more important specific or infectious diseases in 1907 were as follows:—

Small-pox 10 (one imported), as compared with 21 (8 imported) in 1906.

Cholera 228 (46 imported), as compared with 510 (244 imported) in 1906.

Beri-beri 1,626, as compared with 1,507 in 1906.

Plague 15, as compared with 10 (one imported) in 1906.

The stringent quarantine regulations and the vigilance of the medical and municipal authorities have hitherto prevented these scourges from finding a permanent home in the Colony.

In Singapore, Penang, and Malacca, the general arrangements for sanitation and conservancy are carried out by the municipality and in the several districts of Province Wellesley by Sanitary Boards with powers under the Municipal Ordinance.

CLIMATE.

The mean temperature of the air at Singapore was 80·6° F. (maximum 88·2° and minimum 73·9°); Penang 80·3° (maximum 89·2°, minimum 73·5°); Malacca 79·9° (maximum 88·4°, minimum 72·9°).

The mean rainfall in Singapore was 81·25 inches; in Penang, 87·53 inches; in Province Wellesley, 76·78 inches; in the Dindings, 53·21 inches; and in Malacca, 71·35 inches.

The greatest fall in 24 hours was 6·72 inches in Province Wellesley on 14th November.

In spite of the high death-rate the climate in the towns and country which has long been opened up cannot be considered unhealthy for Europeans, who, if they take ordinary precautions and with their higher and more sanitary mode of life can to a great extent avoid the malarial and other tropical fevers and dysentery which attack the Oriental inhabitants of the peninsula.

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

Over 18,300,000 articles passed through the post office, of which over 640,000 were registered.

The postal revenue amounted to \$624,845, as against \$593,705 in 1906. The expenditure was \$448,275, an increase of \$18,394, as compared with that of the preceding year. The money order business showed an increase of \$187,539. The transactions in sterling amounted to £20,564 and those in Indian currency to Rs. 2,255,391, while in local currency business was done to the extent of \$463,682, the aggregate being \$1,964,139, as against \$1,776,600 in 1906 and \$2,206,305 in 1905.

The telegraphs in Penang and Province Wellesley and the inland lines in Malacca, all of which are connected with the Government system of the Federated Malay States are the property of Government.

The telephone system of Singapore is the property of the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company. This Company also maintains for Government the lines connecting the Government offices and police stations, &c. There is a branch exchange at Johore Bharu, which is connected with Singapore.

The telephone lines in Penang and Province Wellesley, 810 miles in length, are owned and worked by Government. The system in use is the metallic circuit in Penang, but in Province Wellesley earth returns are used. The number of subscribers at the end of the year was 374 and there were in addition 57 service lines.

The Malacca telephone system is also worked by Government, and consists of 213 miles of service lines.

PUBLIC WORKS.

SINGAPORE.

Among the more important public works completed during the year were three bungalows for Government officials and certain improvements and extensions were made to the hospitals and medical institutions. An opium factory was constructed at Telok Blangah which is rented by the farmers.

Considerable progress was also made in the construction of the new Tan Tock Seng Hospital, the foundations of 11 wards including baths and latrines being completed, and a commencement was made in the latter half of the year with the new Maternity Hospital. The erection of quarters for certain subordinate officers entitled to them was also put in hand.

Numerous improvements and repairs of a minor nature were effected to certain Government schools, police stations, and the prison.

The new ferro-concrete lighthouse at One Fathom Bank was practically completed, the new light being exhibited on 12th January, 1908. The lighthouse is octagonal in plan carried by 17 piles 24 inches and 18 inches in diameter, and includes service room quarters for lightkeeper and crew, visitors' room, office and armoury, store room for oil, water, and dry goods, and bath and lavatory accommodation. The light which was supplied by Messrs. Chance Brothers, Birmingham, is a second order occulting white light giving four flashes in quick succession every 15 seconds. The duration of each flash is one-third second followed by an eclipse of two seconds, the long interval between the groups of flashes being $7\frac{2}{3}$ seconds. The intensity of the light is 64,000 candles. It has a range of $15\frac{1}{2}$ nautical miles, the focal plane being $92\frac{1}{2}$ feet above high water. The total cost of the work will be \$247,000.

The total amount expended by Government on public works special services, in Singapore, was \$528,860.82.

SINGAPORE HARBOUR WORKS.

In January, 1907, the staff of the contractors, Messrs. Sir John Jackson, Limited, came on the ground, and took possession of a piece of land for their workyard between Robinson Road and the sea front, extending from the Telok Ayer Market to Fort Palmer.

In April the engineering staff of Messrs. Coode, Son, and Matthews, the consulting engineers, arrived.

During the year the contractors built their import jetty, which extends for a length of nearly 600 feet out into the sea, near the Telok Ayer Market end of the yard.

Early in April, the contractors commenced clearing away the jungle at Pulau Ubin, and laying their temporary roads for opening up the quarry from whence they are obtaining their granite for the works.

A commencement was made with driving the staging for the southern end of the reclamation wall, in September, 1907, and the staging at the northern end, near Johnston's Pier, was commenced in October.

At the end of the year the state of the works was as follows: The contractors' office, bungalows for the European foremen, fitting shop, blacksmiths' shop, cement shed, locomotive house, and carpenters' shop had been erected: a stone crusher for breaking the granite from Pulau Ubin for concreting purposes, a concrete mixer, and the floor for building the concrete cylinder rings were completed, and the necessary railway lines laid throughout the yard.

One hundred and forty feet of staging had also been erected at each end for the commencement of the quay wall.

Pulau Ubin quarry at the end of the year had been opened up, and a jetty started for loading barges with broken stone for the works.

The numbers of men employed were:—On the quay wall and reclamation works, 365: at the quarry, 157: these figures including 61 Europeans. Amongst other plant on the works, the contractors had the following:—two locomotives, two 35-ton goliaths, four 10-ton steam cranes, six 5-ton steam cranes, one 15-ton hand crane, and 391 tons of cement in the cement shed.

ROADS.

Under roads, streets, bridges, and canals, special services, the forming, draining, and metalling of Bedoh Road was completed, the earthwork in connection with the new road from Kranji to Woodlands was finished and a length of 1.13 miles metalled. Four brick and concrete culverts and two bridges of 10 feet and 15 feet span respectively were built.

The old earth formation West Coast Road for a length of 1.26 miles between Pandan and Jurong Rivers was raised an average height of 3.26 feet and two culverts built.

A new bridge of 20 feet span was constructed at the junction of Labrador Villa Road and Pasir Panjang Road.

A length of $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles of road was re-metalled, chargeable to special service votes, and a further length of $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles re-metalled from the vote for maintenance.

The total expenditure under roads, streets, bridges, and canals, special services, was \$139,920.60.

The length of road under maintenance was 89.7 miles, of which 85 miles are metalled with granite and laterite, 2.7 gravelled, and 2 natural.

The dredger "Mudlark" removed 121,026 tons of silt from the Singapore River, 92,526 tons of which were removed in Chinese twakows and deposited in the Mount Zion Reclamation and the remainder removed to sea. A sum of \$31,999.51 was spent in depositing dredging in the reclamation.

Penang.

The total expenditure, exclusive of establishment and other charges, &c., by the Public Works Department during 1907 in Penang, Province Wellesley, and the Dindings was \$871,218.26.

In Penang the principal works taken in hand and completed were certain quarters for Government officers and improvements to the wards and low-lying grounds of the hospitals; the opium and spirit farm offices and factory were completed; a new tiled roof and hardwood timber trusses were put to St. George's Church, the reclamation at Sungai Pinang was completed, the new dredger from England was received and a new launch built locally for towing mud barges. A commencement was made with the extension of the Government offices to provide room for the Chinese Protectorate and Indian Immigration offices. The old Convalescent Bungalow was pulled down and a new bungalow commenced near the same site.

The Batu Feringgi Road was further extended and several decayed timber bridges were renewed in iron and masonry.

In Province Wellesley a new ward and a new dresser's quarters were built at Bukit Mertajam Hospital, a new isolation camp for animals was commenced near Butterworth, and also a new police station at Sungai Lembu. The extension of the water supply to Sungai Setar and Sungai Acheh, including a syphon under the Krian River, was completed.

Several decayed timber bridges and culverts were renewed in iron and masonry. Masonry drains were extended in several villages, and a new steam road-roller purchased from England.

The total cost of public works was \$508,279.58, including establishment charges.

The total cost of roads, streets, bridges, and canals was \$362,938.68.

Malacca.

All the works undertaken at Malacca were of a minor character and consisted chiefly of improvements, extensions, and alterations to certain Government buildings and the construction of additional quarters for the police and of two new vernacular schools.

The channel at entrance to Malacca River was deepened by means of a grab dredger. The quantity dredged was 20,134.80 tons at an average cost of 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents.

Where settlement had taken place the North and South Groyne were raised in order to prevent the sea washing over them and causing damage. The sum expended on this work was \$5,000.

IMMIGRATION.

I.—CHINESE.

The number of immigrants from China, viz., 227,342, was the largest which has ever been recorded. It exceeds that for 1903, the previous record year, by 3.1 per cent. The female immigrants formed 8.2 per cent. of the total. The total number of infants under three years of age was large; deducting those reported as leaving for other ports 525 male and 645 female infants were added to the population of the Colony. The number of "unpaid passengers," i.e., of coolies who obtain free passages from China in consideration of entering into contracts for service on arrival in the Colony has risen to 24,089. These "unpaid passengers" formed 10.5 per cent. of the total arrivals.

The totals for the last five years are as follows:—

Year.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
1903	193,339	14,539	12,443	220,321
1904	179,650	14,395	10,751	204,796
1905	148,869	13,714	10,548	173,131
1906	153,624	12,478	10,485	176,587
1907	197,284	16,265	13,793*	227,342

* Boys, 10,377 ; Girls, 3,416

II.—INDIAN.

The figures for the last five years are appended:—

Year.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
1. Statute immigrants ...	572	2,721	4,823	3,674	5,499
2. Free coolies (with aided tickets).	1,980	3,556	7,687	20,215	24,709
3. Other immigrants ...	19,478	24,475	27,030	28,152	31,922

The figures for 1907 include 3,548 children.

Twenty-nine thousand six hundred and thirty-one adults and 891 children left the Colony for southern India.

The number of immigrants from south India shows an increase of 20 per cent. on the figures for 1906. This is in a great measure due to the development of the rubber-planting industry in the Colony and Federated Malay States, which has increased the demand for Tamils of the agricultural classes. Coolies are now shipped from Madras as well as from Negapatam, and recruiting depôts are established at both these ports. Of the 30,208 agricultural labourers who came over, about 14 per cent. were females.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND.

The revenue collected locally during the year 1907 amounted to \$1,207.81 as against \$1,670.46 in 1906. The royalty on the phosphate exported, which is paid in London, was £8,411 16s. 2d. as against £7,153 8s. 10d. in 1906 and £6,096 15s. 0d. in 1905.

The expenditure totalled \$16,720.97, \$11,810.20 being disbursed on the island and \$4,910.77 in Singapore for passages of officers, &c.

The number of cases of crime shows a tendency to rise, being 190 in 1907 as compared with 183 in 1906 and 166 in 1905: the offences were all, however, of a trivial nature, with the exception of two persons who were banished for complicity in unlawful and secret societies.

Thirty-eight vessels were cleared in 1907, an increase of three over 1906, the total registered tonnage amounting to 49,753 as against 45,053 in the previous year. Of this 4,201 tons sailed under the Swedish flag and 2,330 under the Danish flag, the remainder being British. Apart from the cargoes of phosphate shipped to Singapore in the company's steamer ten vessels sailed for Japanese and eight for European ports with phosphate.

There is no import trade, but the exports, which consist entirely of phosphates of lime, show a substantial increase of 19,814 tons; 110,375 tons being shipped as compared with 90,561 in 1906.

On the 31st December, 1907, the total population of the island was 1,180, of which 1,110 were males; the Europeans and Eurasians numbered 17 males and seven females. The death-rate per mille per annum was, for all residents of the island 12·27 as compared with 28·5 in 1906 and 19·98 in 1905: the deaths of two members of ships' crews are not included in these calculations. Of the 14 deaths five were due to beri-beri and nine to other causes.

The marked decrease in the mortality from beri-beri reflects great credit on the doctor and hospital staff. The number of cases treated was 269 as against 370 in 1906, and for the first time on record the number of re-admissions has exceeded the number of new cases:—this factor, coupled with the diminished death-rate from beri-beri and the consistent use of parboiled rice in the hospital and amongst the Tamil community, who are almost immune from the disease, tends to give rise to hopes that this fatal scourge will eventually be eliminated, and that a difficult problem will find a satisfactory solution. The health of the island shows a satisfactory improvement, and there has been a marked diminution in the number of cases of conjunctivitis and dysentery, which can partially be attributed to the excellent sanitary arrangements and good water supply.

The weather throughout the year was distinctly favourable to loading in comparison with 1906, rain falling on 142 days as against 189 in 1906. The mean monthly temperature was 80·85 (highest 93·7 and lowest 68·4). These favourable climatic conditions facilitated larger shipments of phosphate. The rubber plantations and vegetable garden were extended, and the condition of the coolies is now eminently satisfactory, as they are well housed and enjoy good food, water, and air.

LABUAN.

The Island of Labuan was incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore on January 1st, 1907. The revenue and expenditure are kept distinct from the general revenues of the Colony, and the military defence contribution is levied on the net surplus, if any, of the revenue over the expenditure. The total revenue for the year amounted to \$104,659.63 and the total expenditure to \$96,835.16, the estimates in both cases being largely exceeded. The excess of actual revenue over expenditure for the year was \$7,824.47, but the sum on which the military contribution is assessable is only \$3,991.75 as the Imperial contribution of £600 towards the expenses of the Brunei Consulate is not liable to this surtax.

The trade of the island shows a diminution of \$596,101 in the value of imports and of \$370,193 of exports, amounting in the aggregate to 19 per cent. of the total trade. This decrease is attributed to the present system of direct shipment of goods between North Borneo ports and Singapore and the regular service of steamers by the Norddeutscher Lloyd Company, which has driven away a considerable portion of the coastal trade, formerly carried on between Labuan and North Borneo by sailing vessels.

The comparative values of trade for the years 1906 and 1907 are as follows:—

<i>Merchandise.</i>					
			1906.		
			\$		
Imports	...	...	1,470,388	...	1,223,031
Exports	...	...	1,411,303	...	1,254,542
Total	...	...	2,881,691	...	2,477,573
<i>Treasure.</i>					
Imports	...	...	319,949	...	135,035
Exports	...	...	140,425	...	65,791
Total	...	...	460,374	...	200,826
Grand Total	...	...	3,342,065	...	2,678,399

The value of the trade with ports other than those of the Straits Settlements was:—

					\$
Imports	...	...	...	...	429,975
Exports	...	...	...	...	524,573

The chief decreases were under the heads of rice and grain, cutch and sago flour.

The export of coal from the Labuan collieries showed an increase of 27 per cent. over 1906. For the first time for some years cargoes were exported, 7,600 tons being despatched to Penang, Hong Kong, Saigon, and Manila.

One hundred and forty-seven merchant vessels entered and cleared with a total tonnage of 159,367, an increase of 11,820 over the figures for the previous year. Minor improvements to buoys, beacons, and lighthouses were made and a new landing pier was erected.

The system of land tenure in the island is in a state of confusion owing to the inaccuracy of the Land Office records, the absence of reliable maps, and the faulty plans endorsed on the old grants. A complete re-survey of the island is necessary and will shortly be undertaken as a prelude to placing the

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

registration of deeds and the transfers of landed property on a satisfactory basis.

A European district officer supervises the administration of the various sub-districts, twelve in number, through the agency of native headmen.

The island was practically free from crime of a serious description, 191 cases only being tried in the Police Court and none in the Supreme Court, while the total claims in civil litigation amounted to only \$5,700.

The health of the population, which was estimated to be 8,286 on the 31st December, was good; there was a marked diminution in the number of beri-beri cases and an absence of any serious epidemic diseases, but the stagnant pools in compounds and the swampy ground near Victoria Town give rise to malarial fever, which was somewhat prominent during the year. Much remains to be done to improve the sanitary condition of the villages and of Coal Point.

The highest recorded temperature was 92° F. and the lowest 71° F., and the total rainfall was 143·03 inches.

The revenue of the Post Office, which amounted to \$29,372.59 as compared with an expenditure of \$1,152.35, was largely swelled by the demand for stamps on the part of philatelists.

No important public works were undertaken, and the operations of the Public Works Department were principally confined to repairs of buildings and the maintenance of existing roads.

There is a S.P.G. School with an enrolment of about 40 pupils, principally Chinese, and a vernacular school with 51 children was opened in August and housed in a rented building.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Amongst the most memorable events of the year was the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, with Princess Victoria Patricia, in February, all of whom were accorded a loyal and hearty reception at both Singapore and Penang, on the occasion of the Duke's tour of inspection of the local garrisons as Inspector-General of the Forces.

Other distinguished visitors to Singapore were the King of Siam, His Imperial Highness Prince Fushimi, and the Governor-General of the Netherland Indies.

Mr. J. K. Birch, who had served with marked ability as Resident Councillor, Penang, for nearly ten years, retired on pension in February.

Mr. C. E. Velge, Registrar of the Supreme Court, after long and meritorious service extending over a period of nearly 33 years, retired on pension at the end of the year. Owing to his wide knowledge of legal matters and experience of local procedure his retirement will be felt as a loss by both Bench and Bar.

Mr. E. C. Hill, Auditor-General of the Straits Settlements since 1897, also retired on pension at the end of the year owing to failing health.

Mr. W. A. Pickering, C.M.G., the first Protector of Chinese, who retired in 1889, but whose eminent services to the Colony are still remembered, died in January.

A Commission was appointed in July to investigate the extent to which opium is used in the Colony and the Federated Malay States, and to evolve, if possible, means for its restriction and ultimate elimination. The field of enquiry and the number of issues have proved so intricate and vast that the results of the labours of the Commission will not be available until the latter half of this year.

A Board, similar to that in Penang, to supervise the management of Mohammedan and Hindu endowments was constituted during the year in Singapore, and arrangements were completed for the improved laying out of that portion of the town of Singapore known as the Sultan Ali Lands.

The discussion of the provisions to be added to the Municipal Ordinance for dealing with insanitary areas in towns occupied a considerable part of the time of the Legislative Council, and the amending Ordinance already referred to did not reach its final shape until the end of the year. The Singapore Municipality, in the meantime, was engaged on a complete and thorough revision of the Building By-Laws which have since been confirmed by the Governor in Council and should do much to improve the sanitary conditions under which the native population live.

Among other works in progress affecting the health of the community a reference may be made to the reclamation of a large area of swamp land along the upper reaches of the Singapore River and the construction by the Municipality of an additional large reservoir to supplement the water supply of Singapore Town.

A scheme for the improvement of the municipal water supply at Penang was also sanctioned.

The re-survey of Singapore Island which has been in progress since 1902 is now nearing completion, and when the maps have been published and the boundaries of holdings finally ascertained, under the Boundaries Ordinance it will be possible to introduce in Singapore the additional provisions of the Registration of Deeds Ordinance which have been for

some years in operation in Penang, with the result of greatly facilitating the transfer of land.

It was thought that matters were sufficiently advanced by the latter part of 1907 to take this step, but after a few months actual working of the new provisions it was found that the Survey Office was not able, in spite of an increase of staff, in the absence of the completed maps, to deal with the applications for tracings of lots with sufficient expedition to obviate delay in completing transactions by the public, and the general adoption of these provisions had therefore to be postponed, but they will be applied by degrees as each section of the map is completed.

During the year an important decision was arrived at as to the reduction of Straits Light Dues, and the new rates came into effect at the commencement of 1908.

The Legislative Council also appointed a Committee to consider and report upon the question of the restrictions at present imposed upon Sunday labour in the ports of the Colony.

The vexed question of shipping rings or conferences is awaiting the report of the Royal Commission appointed in England in 1907 to investigate the subject.

A report by a Sub-Committee of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce, dated the 10th of July, 1907, answering questions on this subject submitted at the instance of the Royal Commission was forwarded to the Secretary of State, together with a report from Mr. Stuart, the Registrar of Imports and Exports.

This officer at my request has prepared a statement showing the approximate volume of cargo shipped in scale tons during 1907 to the United Kingdom, the rest of Europe, excluding Russia, to which country the influence of the Conference does not extend, and to America, the approximate amount of freights paid thereon, and the average approximate amount that would have been paid yearly on the same cargo at the rates current during the five years previous to the Conferences.

I annex the Registrar's return, which shows approximately the tax on cargo levied by the Straits Homeward and New York Shipping Conferences in 1907, or in other words the amount estimated to have been actually paid in excess of that which the currently-quoted average rates of freight during the respective five years prior to the establishment of these Conferences in 1897 and 1905, respectively, would have entailed.

Statement showing the approximate volume of cargo shipped in scale tons during 1907 to the United Kingdom, the Continent of Europe (excluding Russia), and to America, the approximate amount of freights paid thereon, and the average approximate amount that would have been paid on the same during the five years previous to Conferences.

United Kingdom and Continent excluding Russia.						America.					
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Principal Articles and Measurement.	Average Rates of Freight to London in 1892-1896 (5 years).	Average Rates of Freight to London and Continent in 1907 less 10 per cent. Rebate.	Approximate Volume of Cargo exported to United Kingdom and Continent of Europe excluding Russia in scale tons during 1907. ('000 omitted.)	Average Amount of Freight Charges paid on cargo in 1892-1896. ('000 omitted.)	Amount of Freight Charges paid on cargo in 1907. ('000 omitted.)	Principal Articles and Measurement.	Average Rate of Freight to New York for 5 years ended August 1906.	Average Rates of Freight to New York less 10 per cent. Rebate.	Approximate Volume of Cargo exported to New York in scale tons during 1907. ('000 omitted.)	Average Amount of Freight Charges paid on cargo in 5 years ended August 1906. ('000 omitted.)	Amount of Freight Charges paid on cargo in 1907. ('000 omitted.)
Tin	s. d. 5 10	s. d. 23 8	49.5	12.4	50.3	Tin	s. d. 15 0	s. d. 22 6	9.7	s. 7.3	s. 10.9
Gambier, bale ..	21 8	23 3	13.7	14.8	20	Gambier, bale ..	22 5	29 3	11.1	12.3	16.1
Sago flour ..	19 2	22 11	43.4	40.6	48.6	Sago flour ..	22 5	24 9	5.2	5.8	6.4
Copra ..	21 4	25 0	63.9	68.2	67.1	Jelutong ..	22 5	27 0	14.9	16.7	20.1
Rattans ..	19 11	25 2	4.9	4.8	6.2	Rattans ..	22 5	24 8	14.3	16.0	17.7
Black pepper ..	22 4	36 0	13.2	14.5	23.8	Black pepper ..	22 5	38 0	9.9	11.1	17.8
Tapioca pearl ..	19 4	38 3	12.2	11.8	23.3	Tapioca pearl ..	22 5	38 3	9.2	10.3	17.6
Measurement ..	24 0	41 8	—	—	—	Measurement ..	22 5	41 8	—	—	—
Other Principal Articles, viz.:—Rattans dunnage, jelutong, hides, pines, gum copal, tapioca flake, Illipi nuts, sugar, cube gambier, white pepper, gutta and rubbers and oil cakes .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	192.8	167.1	239.3	Other Principal Articles, viz.:—Hides, pines, gum, copal, tapioca flake, cube gambier, white pepper, and gutta and rubbers .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	74.3	79.5	106.6
Total .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	287.7	290.8	416.5	Total .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	24.2	33.1*	44.4
Increase			..	£125.7	..	Increase			98.5	112.6	151.0
										£38.4	

* The Average Amount inserted chargeable as Freight in 1892 to 1896 to the United Kingdom and Continent and in the 5 years ended August 1906 to America for other Principal Articles is based on the differences between the amounts of the Principal Articles in the two periods compared.

Approximate volume of cargo in scale tons exported to the United Kingdom, the Continent of Europe (excluding Russia), and America in 1907=386,200.

Approximate amount of freights paid on the above in 1907 over the amount that would have been charged prior to Conferences=£164,100 or \$1,406,600.

The results for 1907 are approximately as follows:—

Total volume in scale tons of cargo shipped to the United Kingdom, the rest of Europe, excluding America, and to America tons 386,200.

	£
Total freight charged thereon	567,500
Total freights that would have been charged on the same prior to the Conferences	403,400
Difference	<u>£164,100</u>

Secret rebate of 5 per cent. on all freights pooled, paid to certain specially favoured firms	£28,375
--	---------

The Registrar of Imports and Exports is of opinion that the difference of £164,100 which he shows is for the following reasons an under-estimate:—

(i) The quotations prior to the establishment of Conferences were the asking prices and less was frequently obtained.

(ii) Articles which are shipped as bag goods and measurement have all been reckoned by him at the lower or bag rate.

(iii) Other principal articles on much of which expensive freight is usually charged have been reckoned by him on the basis of the low freights quoted for principal goods which show 43 per cent. of an increase compared with about 80 per cent. for measurement cargo.

(iv) Other articles such as tapioca flour, pearl sago, canes, certain gums, spices, &c., are not included.

(v) Of rattans one-third of the quantity exported to the United Kingdom and the whole of what went to the Continent have been assumed to have been shipped as “Dunnage” which pays a much reduced rate of freight: the same article to America has been taken at scale ton rate.

In this and other ways favourable consideration has been given so that there may be no ground for any allegation of exaggeration.

The Sub-Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Singapore in their report, dated 10th July, 1907, gave figures showing that there was an increase in the volume of shipments of the principal articles of produce (excluding tin) to the United Kingdom, the Continent, and the United States of



America in the second five years over the first half of the decade prior to the establishment of Conferences.

The same statement shows that in volume of cargo carried there was an actual loss in the second five years of the decade over the first five years after the formation of the Conference.

The net loss in ten years is placed by the Sub-Committee at 238,512 tons, or a yearly average of 23,851 tons.

Deductions from these figures would appear to indicate that there has been a diversion of trade due to the action of the Conference, and taking into consideration that there has been an enormous expansion of trade throughout the Eastern Archipelago since 1896, of which the Colony in its position hitherto as a main collecting and distributing centre should have derived its full share, the diversion of trade is much greater than is shown by the figures given in the report referred to.

Whether this diversion of trade is due directly to the effects of these Conferences, or whether it has been contributed to by a variety of causes, the fact remains that there has been a diversion of trade so considerable as to make the subject a most serious one for the Colony.

Undoubtedly one effect of these Shipping Conferences has been to eliminate all chance of any sailing vessel obtaining cargo in the Colony for the United Kingdom or Continent of Europe, and the same prohibition has, in effect, been placed upon the economically-run "tramp" steamers, British mainly, which used to participate largely in the important over-seas carrying trade of this Colony.

It seems appropriate to remark specially here that the report of a Sub-Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Singapore, referred to above, emphasizes the fact that a practice exists under which the steamship companies comprising these Conferences pay a preferential or so-called "secret" return of 5 per cent. on the total of all freights earned from the Straits by Conference steamers to a limited number of privileged firms or persons—the apportionment among these firms being kept secret. The Sub-Committee (some of the members of which belong to firms who are participants in this special privilege) have placed on record that the privileged firms or persons—among whom are foreigners—who participate in this so-called secret 5 per cent. return are thus placed at an advantage over other merchant shippers of this Colony.

This practice of giving a special preference to a selected few is, I believe, peculiar to this Colony.

ARTHUR YOUNG,

Colonial Secretary.

24th August, 1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

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No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
546	Grenada	1906-1907
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
549	Jamaica	1906-1907
550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia... ..	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906-1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar	"
564	Ashanti	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907-1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907
567	Seychelles	"
568	Bermuda... ..	"
569	Weihaiwei	"
570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta	1907-1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907-1908
575	Bahamas... ..	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907-1908
578	Turks and Caicos	1907
579	St. Lucia	"
580	Fiji	"
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50	British Colonies	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Bactariological Work 1907-08.
54	Newfoundland... ..	Governor's Visit to Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.

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No. 559.

SWAZILAND.

REPORT FOR 1906-7.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

June, 1908.



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No.. 559.

SWAZILAND.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

High Commissioner's Office,
Johannesburg,

February 3rd, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of a despatch from the Resident Commissioner covering a Report from the Government Secretary on the Swaziland Blue Book for the financial year* from July 1st, 1906, to March 31st, 1907.

I have, &c.,

SELBORNE,

High Commissioner.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

Resident Commissioner's Office,

Mbabane,

30th January, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Report of the Government Secretary for the financial year from July 1st, 1906, to March 31st, 1907.

I have, &c.,

R. T. CORYNDON,

Resident Commissioner.

The Right Honourable,

The Earl of Selborne, P.C., G.C.M.G.,

&c., &c., &c., &c.,

Johannesburg.

* See page 4, paragraph 1.

REPORT ON THE SWAZILAND BLUE BOOK FOR
THE FINANCIAL YEAR FROM JULY 1ST, 1906,
TO MARCH 31ST, 1907.

FINANCIAL.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

On the grant of responsible government to the Transvaal Colony, the administrative control of Swaziland was transferred from the Governor of the Transvaal to the High Commissioner for South Africa. Effect was given to this change by High Commissioner's Proclamation No. 4 of 1907, issued under the authority conferred by order of His Majesty in Council dated December 1st, 1906, and it was decided that the financial year should commence from April 1st, 1907, instead of from July 1st, as had been the case previously. Hence, only nine months go to make up the financial year 1906-7.

The revenue collected during this period amounted to £44,921 19s. 7d., being £10,036 19s. 7d. in excess of the estimated revenue for the whole twelve months. This excess was caused principally by reason of the fact that all concession rents collected since 1902 had, up to this year, been placed in a Suspense Account pending such time as the proportion of the amount due to the Government could be ascertained. The sum eventually found to be so due amounted to £11,219 13s. 4d. There was also an unforeseen excess over the estimated revenue under the head "Miscellaneous." The expenditure for the year amounted to £74,845 2s. 3d., or £16,491 2s. 3d. more than the estimate for the twelve months. This excess was caused by payment of awards for expropriation of monopolies. The deficiency was met from the balance in hand at the beginning of the financial year and from a loan effected for the purpose.

The following table shows the revenue collections since July 1st, 1904. Prior to that date no separate account of Swaziland revenue and expenditure was kept in the Transvaal Treasury:—

	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7. (9 months).
	£	£	£
Customs	3,164	5,676	4,856
Postal	680	587	418
Telegraphs and Telephones	394	390	301
Licences	1,406	1,288	968
Native Tax	30,556	34,780	23,381
Native passes and miscellaneous	581	523	362
Transfer Duty	2,455	167	218
General Stamp and Estate Duty	518	425	538
Fines and Court Fees	464	927	382
Auction Dues	—	2	42
Base Metal Royalties	—	—	314
Concession Rents	—	—	11,220
Miscellaneous	529	1,253	1,922
Total	40,747	46,018	44,922

During 1906-7 the native tax was reduced from £2 to £1 per annum. Taking the reduction into consideration the collection under this head compares favourably with collections for previous years. In every year, however, arrears of tax are recovered. The current tax for a year of twelve months amounts to approximately £20,000. The transfer duty collections for 1905-6 were abnormal, owing to the fact that this was the first year since the close of the South African war in which transactions could be registered in the Swaziland Deeds Registry. Most of these transactions also were dated prior to the war, when the Swaziland duty was 6 per cent. The duty in Swaziland is now the same as in the Transvaal, viz., 1½ per cent. Base metal royalty, which amounts to 2½ per cent. on the base metal mined on severance from the soil, was first paid during 1906-7 in respect of mining transactions since 1905.

The following table shows the expenditure since July 1st, 1904:—

—	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7 (9 months).
	£	£	£
Resident Magistrate and District Administration.	9,698	10,457	7,824
Transport and travelling	1,927	2,221	1,511
Uniforms and badges	86	84	88
Presents, rations, &c., to Native Chiefs (including subsidy).	1,610	708	3,834
Administration of justice	2,535	3,089	2,074
Education... ..	335	728	498
Medical	302	530	551
Posts and telegraphs	1,283	1,520	1,245
Customs	183	360	334
Public Works	1,204	1,003	1,820
Veterinary	1,072	1,807	1,570
Pensions	—	180	135
Miscellaneous	373	385	850
Special expenditure—			
Swaziland Concessions Commission...	3,875	10,809	4,645
Survey of Swaziland	—	10,943	8,099
Trigonometrical survey	—	1,207	—
Survey of township	—	—	1,099
Expropriation of monopolies	—	250	38,668
Total	24,483	46,281	74,845

The normal expenditure for the three years shown does not vary considerably. The amount of £3,834 appearing in the year 1906-7 under the head of presents and rations to native chiefs includes a sum paid for subsidy in respect of the two previous years, the subsidy to the Chief Regent having been increased in this year from £600 per annum to £1,000, the

increase taking effect from February 17th, 1905. A proportion of the sums spent on the survey of Swaziland will eventually become recoverable by instalments extending over a period of ten years. The proportion so recoverable cannot as yet be given. The large sum of £38,918 was expended during the past two years in the compulsory expropriation of a number of monopoly concessions, which, with very few exceptions, were never exercised by the owners, and whose existence rendered all outside enterprise impossible.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The excess of liabilities over assets on March 31st, 1907, amounted to £13,921 3s. 9d. In previous years assets exceeded liabilities.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The Public Debt of Swaziland is £20,000, upon which 4 per cent. per annum interest is payable.

PUBLIC WORKS.

No public buildings have been erected since the previous financial year. £578 was spent on maintenance and repair of existing structures, and £347 on making and repairing roads. A sum of £894 13s. 2d. was expended on the purchase of furniture for the Residency at Mbabane.

LEGISLATION.

No.	Date.	Object.
1	19th December, 1905.	To empower Revenue Officers to refuse the issue of licences under Transvaal Ordinance, No. 23, of 1905, as applied to Swaziland.
2	4th April, 1906	To apply the Game Preservation Ordinance, 1905, of the Transvaal.
3	4th April, 1906	To define the close season for game in Swaziland.
4	4th April, 1906	To protect Vaal Rhebok for three years.
5	4th April, 1906	To remove Bush Pig from the first part of the Schedule to the Game Preservation Ordinance, 1905, of the Transvaal, as applied to Swaziland.
6	4th April, 1906	To empower Revenue Officers to refuse the issue of game licences, and to limit the number of game to be killed under any licence.
7	27th April, 1906	Amending Native Pass Regulations in force in Swaziland.

LEGISLATION—*cont.*

No.	Date.	Object.
8	29th June, 1906	To apply the Customs Amendment Ordinance, 1906, of the Transvaal, <i>mutatis mutandis</i> to Swaziland, together with any Proclamation and the Regulations up to the date hereof promulgated thereunder, excepting all provisions with regard to the distillation for sale of spirits from the produce of the vine.
9	22nd September, 1906.	To create a Trust Fund of monies due to the Swazi Nation.
10	29th September, 1906.	To amend the Native Tax Ordinance, 1902, of the Transvaal, as applied to Swaziland.
11	29th October, 1906.	To provide for the payment of costs in certain matters heard before the Swaziland Concessions Commission.
4	22nd February, 1907.	To give effect to the provisions of the Order of His Majesty in Council, dated 1st December, 1906, substituting the High Commissioner for the Governor of the Transvaal as the governing authority.
5	22nd February, 1907.	To make provision for Post and Telegraph Services in Swaziland.
6	22nd February, 1907.	To amend Proclamation No. 11, of 1906, in regard to the Taxation and Recovery of Costs in cases heard before the Swaziland Concessions Commission.
8	4th March, 1907	To compel the attendance of witnesses in Swaziland before the courts of neighbouring territories, and to provide for the examination of such witnesses before the courts of Swaziland by means of interrogatories.

EDUCATION.

The Government has established three primary schools for European children, and one school under a native teacher at the kraal of the Chief Regent. The young Paramount Chief Sobhuza, amongst others, attends the native school. The European school at Pigg's Peak has been closed, owing to poor attendance. The other two schools, one at Hlatikulu and one at Bremersdorp, are well attended. The sum spent under this head for the nine months ending March 31st, 1907, was £498. No grants were made to religious bodies for educational purposes.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of imports into Swaziland for the nine months ending March 31st, 1907, amounted to £29,851. The Swazis do not utilise imported articles to the same extent as do most other tribes of the sub-continent, and the imports per head of the population compare unfavourably with the imports of other native territories.

No separate account has been kept hitherto of articles exported from Swaziland; where the articles have been exported beyond the Transvaal they have been merged in the Transvaal export returns. The only considerable export, however, has been cassiterite tin, of which 196 tons, valued at £19,644, was exported during the nine months under review.

GENERAL.

In August, 1902, a provisional administration, under a British Special Commissioner, was established in Swaziland, with its headquarters at Mbabane. Bremersdorp, the old capital of the country, had been destroyed by the Boer forces during the war, and Mbabane was selected as the headquarters, owing to its better climatic situation. By order of His Majesty in Council dated June 25th, 1903, the Governor of the Transvaal was invested with administrative powers over Swaziland, and in October, 1904, Lord Milner issued a Proclamation establishing an Administration and putting into force in Swaziland, *mutatis mutandis*, and where applicable, the laws of the Transvaal. The Proclamation also made provision for the settlement of the rights of the natives and the Concessionaires. A Commission, which is still sitting, was appointed to carry into effect the terms of the Proclamation in the latter connection.

In September, 1906, the Governor of the Transvaal, Lord Selborne, visited Swaziland. His Excellency spent several days in the country, and discussed with the principal chiefs certain grievances which were brought before him. The young Paramount Chief, a boy about nine years of age, was presented to the Governor, who distributed suitable gifts.

It was represented, amongst other matters, that the loss of a large number of their cattle by East Coast fever, caused the annual native tax of £2 to bear heavily on the people. Lord Selborne was able to reduce the tax to £1.

By Order of His Majesty in Council dated December 1st, 1906, the High Commissioner for South Africa was substituted for the Governor of the Transvaal as the governing authority, and on February 22nd, 1907, a Proclamation was issued by

the High Commissioner providing for the establishment of an administration on different lines to those subsisting hitherto. A Resident Commissioner, Government Secretary, and Assistant Commissioners were appointed, and provision made for the establishment of Courts of Justice, while a local police force, the Swaziland Police, was formed and took the place of the South African Constabulary, who were withdrawn to the Transvaal. Mr. F. Enraght Moony, who had acted as Special Commissioner and latterly as Resident Magistrate for Swaziland, was appointed Resident Commissioner, and other local officers of the Administration were appointed to the other posts named.

During the year good rains fell, and the crops were fair, though locusts, as in previous years, did considerable damage. Spraying operations were directed against these in their hopper stage, while the flying locusts suffered to a considerable extent by being utilised as depositories for the eggs of a maggot fly. The cattle disease, which came in in 1902 and which has caused great havoc, is well under control, thanks to the strict application of a permit system.

Arrangements were completed with the Concessionaires owning the mineral rights over the ground upon which the surveyed township of Mbabane is situated, which will allow the township to be proclaimed, and title given by the Government to stand holders.

Gold mining has been carried on on a small scale at two mines in the country, viz., Pigg's Peak and the Horo, and the settlement of the concessions question, by which concessionaires' rights will be defined, may give an impetus to this industry. Alluvial tin mining in the vicinity of Mbabane has had very successful results, cassiterite to the value of £46,336 having been mined and exported since 1905. The tin mining is carried on by a company under the concession granted by the late King Umbandine. The areas of further concessions are being prospected for this metal, with encouraging results.

D. HONEY,

Government Secretary.

Mbabane, Swaziland,
30th January, 1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's
Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from
the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Colony.</i>						<i>Year.</i>
526	St. Helena	...	...	...	...	...	1906
527	Ceylon	...	...	...	...	...	"
528	Bermuda	...	...	...	...	...	"
529	Gibraltar	...	...	...	...	...	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	...	"
531	Sierra Leone	...	...	...	...	...	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
533	Weihaiwei	...	...	...	...	...	1906
534	Gold Coast	...	...	...	...	...	"
535	Malta	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
536	Gambia	...	...	...	...	...	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	"
539	Leeward Islands	...	...	...	...	...	"
540	Straits Settlements	...	...	...	...	...	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	...	...	...	...	...	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
543	Bahamas...	...	...	...	...	...	"
544	Barbados	...	...	...	...	...	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago	...	...	...	...	...	"
546	Grenada	...	...	...	...	...	"
547	Mauritius	...	...	...	...	...	1906
548	Fiji	...	...	...	...	...	"
549	Jamaica	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
550	British Guiana	...	...	...	...	...	"
551	Northern Nigeria	...	...	...	...	...	"
552	British Honduras	...	...	...	...	...	1906
553	St. Lucia...	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria	...	...	...	...	...	1906
555	St. Vincent	...	...	...	...	...	1906-1907
556	Basutoland	...	...	...	...	...	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	...	...	...	...	...	"
558	Uganda do.	...	...	...	...	...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

	<i>Colony.</i>	<i>Subject.</i>
44	East Africa Protectorate	Survey Department.
45	Do. do.	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1904-5.
47	Do. do.	Do. 1905-6.
48	Nyasaland Protectorate	Do. 1906-7.
49	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 545.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

REPORT FOR 1906-7.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 504.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

October, 1907.



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No. 545.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 504.)

The ACTING GOVERNOR to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

21st September, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, the usual copies of the Trinidad and Tobago Blue Book for the year 1906-7, together with a Report thereon by Mr. W. M. Gordon, Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

G. T. CARTER,
Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOR THE YEAR 1906-7.

FINANCE.

REVENUE.

1. The Revenue of the Colony for the year 1906-7 was £763,272, as compared with £847,953 in 1905-6, thus showing an apparent decrease of £82,681.

2. It should be remembered, however, that the receipts during the previous year included a sum of £40,874 which was transferred to the credit of the Colony from the Public Officers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, so that the actual receipts from ordinary revenue sources in that year amounted to £807,079. The actual decrease therefore in the ordinary receipts of 1906-7 as compared with those of 1905-6 was £43,807.

3. The items of revenue which exhibited the largest decreases were "Land Sales," £15,601, "Customs," £11,543, "Licences, &c.," £2,449, "Fees of Court, &c.," £4,168, "Government Railways," £2,793, and "Immigration Tax," £1,887.

4. An increase of nearly £2,000 is shown under the head of "Miscellaneous Receipts," while small increases appear under the heads of "Post Office," "Port, Harbour, and Wharf Dues," and "Rents."

5. The very serious decrease of £43,807 from the revenue of the previous year was principally due to the failure of the cocoa crop, the export of which fell from 48,416,256 lbs. in 1905-6 to 27,570,928 lbs. in 1906-7. Better prices towards the end of the financial year assisted to counterbalance in some small degree the extraordinary shortage in the output of cocoa, but the lessening of the amount of money in circulation is reflected in the diminished receipts under several heads of revenue already referred to.

EXPENDITURE.

6. The expenditure of the Colony for the year 1906-7 amounted to £810,474, as against £869,981 for the previous year. The latter figure, however, as explained in last year's Report, includes a sum of £30,967 under the head of Immigration, due to the alteration under which the accounts of the department, which formerly closed on the 30th September, were brought into harmony with the financial year, thus bringing to account the expenditure on six immigrant ships which arrived during 1905-6 as against two only in 1904-5. Excluding this amount, the expenditure of the Colony for last year was £839,014, so that the figures for the year 1906-7 show an actual decrease of expenditure amounting to £28,540.

7. The principal decreases in expenditure occurred under the heads of Public Works, "Roads and Bridges Extraordinary" showing a decrease of £44,469 and "Public Works Extraordinary" one of £17,816.

The other heads of expenditure showing decreases were "Miscellaneous" £6,913, "Immigration" £3,349, "Crown Lands" £2,701, "Port and Marine" £2,038, and "Hospitals, Asylums, and Dispensaries" £1,694.

8. The chief increases in expenditure are found under the heads of "Charges on account of Public Debt" £8,137, "Roads and Bridges Recurrent" £6,850, "Government Railways" £4,085, "Pensions" £2,320, "Printing and Stationery" £1,616, "Education" £1,423, and "Railway Works Extraordinary" £1,619.

9. The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for each of the past six years :—

Year.			Revenue.	Expenditure.
			£	£
1901-2	...	...	*712,394	731,160
1902-3	...	...	788,404	737,045
1903-4	...	...	804,440	818,860
1904-5	...	...	811,614	810,258
1905-6	...	...	†847,953	869,981
1906-7	...	...	763,272	810,474

* Exclusive of £113 0s. 3d. expended in 1899 and 1900 in anticipation of Loan to be raised and repaid to General Revenue in 1901-2.

† Inclusive of £40,874 to credit of Public Officers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund taken over by the Government under the provisions of Ordinance 17 of 1905.

10. Detailed statements of the revenue and expenditure of the Colony showing the receipts and expenditure under each head will be found in Tables A and B appended to this report.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

11. The balance sheet of the Colony, on the 31st March, 1907, shows a surplus of Assets over Liabilities of £23,406, as against a surplus of £68,608 on 31st March, 1906, and of £90,636 on 31st March, 1905.

PUBLIC DEBT.

12. The funded debt of the Colony at the close of the financial year under review was £1,079,233, towards the redemption of which the accumulated sinking funds of the various loans amounted to £119,575. Certain debentures were as usual drawn by lot, and paid off during the year.

TRADE.

13. The dullness in trade referred to in the report on last year's Blue Book continued throughout the year 1906-7. In submitting his report on the Trade Statistics of the Colony the Collector of Customs remarks as follows :—

“The somewhat unfavourable aspect of these (returns) will have been anticipated, it being generally known that the year was the worst for trade which we have had for at least a decade.”

* . . . *

“The Venezuelan trade, in so far as it was represented by purchases from, and sales to, the Colony, fell even below the low average of recent years.”

14. The total value of Imports and Exports during the year, including Bullion and Specie and goods in transhipment, was £5,993,042 as against £6,472,317 during the previous year.

IMPORTS.

15. The total value of imports into the Colony during the year 1906-7 was £3,120,717 as compared with £3,303,611 during the preceding year. Of the above aggregate, the value of dutiable goods imported was £1,481,093, while free goods landed amounted to £802,094, the balance being made up by imports of Bullion and Specie and of goods for transhipment.

16. The principal articles of import which showed increases in value over the figures of last year were Cocoa £34,000 (the *quantity* being less than last year but the *value* more, due to increased prices), Machinery £28,400, Rubber £13,800, Tonca Beans £12,700, Coal and Patent Fuel £10,800, Butter substitutes £9,000, Timber £9,200, Manure £8,600, Dholl £7,100, and Flour £5,500.

17. The imports of articles hereinafter mentioned showed decreases in value to the following extent :—Hardware £9,600, Rice £7,800, Fish £7,700, and Malt Liquor £5,300.

EXPORTS.

18. The total value of the Exports for the year amounted to £2,872,325 as against £3,168,706 in 1905-6 and £2,479,274 in 1904-5. The exports of the produce of the Colony, however, fell to a still lower proportionate figure, the value shipped being £166,000 below that of the previous year and £301,000 below that of two years ago (1904-5).

19. The principal articles of export which exhibited increases were Timber £44,100, Tonca Beans £24,700, Coconuts (including the products) £22,000, Asphalt £17,900, Venezuelan Cocoa £14,700, and Rum £11,900.

20. Decreases were shown in a large number of minor exports, while heavy deficits occurred in the values of Trinidad Cocoa (£239,000) and Sugar (£21,000), due in the former case to a short crop and in the latter to low prices.

21. In Appendix C will be found a statement showing the total values of the imports and exports of the Colony for the past five years.

22. The total quantities and values of the principal articles of local produce during the last five years are shown in Appendix D.

23. An examination of the figures shows that in the year 1906-7 35·1 per cent. of our imports came from the United Kingdom, 25·8 from the United States, 17·7 from Venezuela, 6·8 from other foreign countries, 5·5 from Canada, and 9·4 from other British Colonies.

24. Of Exports the United States took 34·8 per cent., the United Kingdom 25·0, Canada 10·2, other British Colonies 2·8, Venezuela 2·7, and other foreign countries 24·5.

25. Table F in the Appendix shows in detail the direction of the trade of the Colony, and the total values of the imports and exports from and to the Mother Country and the Colonies, and to other countries.

SHIPPING.

26. Five hundred and seventy-three steam vessels, with a total tonnage of 841,850, entered at the various ports of the Colony during the year. The number of sailing vessels which arrived was 1,553 with a total tonnage of 59,707.

27. The diminution in the number of sailing vessels noted last year continued during the year under review, there being 225 fewer arrivals during 1906-7 than during the previous year. Towards the end of the year, however, the decree of President Castro prohibiting trade between Venezuela and Trinidad in vessels under 40 tons was modified so as to allow of such trade being carried on by vessels of 20 tons.

28. The total tonnage of vessels entered at each port of the Colony was as follows:—

Port.				Steam.	Sailing.
				Tons.	Tons.
Port-of-Spain...	...	...	...	817,972	55,134
San Fernando...	...	...	...	1,966	2,024
La Brea and Cedros...	...	...	...	15,529	1,499
Scarborough, Tobago	...	...	...	6,393	1,050
Total	...	...	...	841,850	59,707

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

29. Of the vessels shown above, the tonnage of British steam ships amounted to 561,792, and of those under foreign flags 280,068. Of the sailing vessels entered, British owners claimed a tonnage of 23,941 and foreign owners 35,766.

LEGISLATION.

30. Forty-three Ordinances were passed during the year 1906-7, Nos. 5 to 30 of 1906, and Nos. 1 to 17 of 1907. The most important of these measures were a Bankruptcy Ordinance, based in the main on the Imperial Act, the Public Officers Guarantee Fund Ordinance, under which all Public Officers giving security were required to become contributors to the Fund within one year from the commencement of the Ordinance, the Asphalt Industry Regulation Ordinance, and the Industrial Training Ordinance, providing for the training of apprentices in various trades and handicrafts, and for the registration of, and granting of certificates of efficiency to competent artisans by a Board appointed under the Ordinance. Other Ordinances passed included an Ordinance to regulate work in Mines, Borings, and Quarries, an Explosives Ordinance, and an Ordinance repealing the Port-of-Spain (Additional) House Rate Ordinance, under which a special rate of 2 per cent. had been imposed on property holders within the town, to cover the cost of re-erection of the public buildings destroyed by fire in 1903.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

31. The Honourable Hugh Clifford, C.M.G., was appointed Colonial Secretary of Ceylon, and left on the 18th February, 1907, to take up his new appointment.

On the 1st December, 1906, Mr. H. R. Marwood succeeded Mr. W. E. Smith, appointed to the Gold Coast, as General Manager of Railways, Mr. Fahey becoming office assistant to the General Manager on the same date.

On the 1st September, 1906, Mr. W. C. Nock, succeeded Mr. Henry Warner as Warden of Savana Grande, Mr. C. J. N. Libert taking Mr. Nock's place as Warden of Montserrat on the same date.

Mr. P. L. Fraser and Mr. H. K. Collens were appointed Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Prisons respectively on the 1st January, 1907.

Mr. Q. H. Spicer was appointed Clerk of the Peace and Deputy Registrar, San Fernando, on 17th February, 1907, but did not assume duty until after the close of the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

32. The total number of births recorded throughout the Colony during the year was 10,877, being a decrease of 724 over those of last year. Of these 3,471 were of East Indian parentage. The deaths numbered 7,937 as against 8,293 for the previous year, a decrease of 356. The birth-rate per thousand of the population during the year under review was 33·7, while the death-rate was 24·6.

33. The total estimated population on the 31st March, 1907, was 327,403, the figures being arrived at as follows :—

Population (estimated) 31st March, 1906	...	320,024
Natural increase (excess births over deaths)...		2,940
Excess of arrivals over departures according to Harbour Master's returns	...	4,439
Total	...	327,403

34. The principal causes of mortality during the year were as follows :—

Diarrhoea and dysentery	1,335	against	1,208	in	1905-6.
Fever	...	885	"	907	"
Phthisis	...	512	"	578	"
Bronchitis	...	291	"	300	"
Pneumonia	...	269	"	262	"
Enteritis	...	379	"	369	"

35. It is somewhat curious to observe that a decrease occurred both in births and deaths, the birth-rate per thousand dropping from 36·3 during the previous year to 33·7 during 1906-7, while the death-rate similarly decreased from 25·9 to 24·6.

Owing to the departure of a large number of labourers for work on the Panama Canal, where good wages were obtainable, and to other causes, the excess of arrivals over departures, which last year appeared from the Harbour Master's returns to be nearly 13,000, dropped during the year under review to 4,439.

IMMIGRATION.

36. During the year 1906-7 four ships arrived in the Colony from India bringing a total of 2,502 souls, equal to 2,417 statute adults.

37. The return ship *Ganges* left for Calcutta on the 15th November, taking back to India 484 men, 171 women, 54 boys, 48 girls and 26 infants, or 783 souls, equal to 719 statute adults. The vessel arrived at Calcutta on the 29th December, after a voyage of 44 days, during which 14 deaths occurred, chiefly old and decrepit persons, and three births.

38. The amount deposited in the Government Savings Bank by East Indian immigrants during the year was £67,508, while the balance to the credit of immigrants on the 31st December, 1906 was £98,403, belonging to 5,888 depositors, giving an average amount of £16 14s. 2d. to the credit of each depositor.

The amount remitted to India by East Indians was £2,873, During the year 1906-7 3,306 acres of Crown land were sold to East Indians.

39. The report of the Surgeon-General classifies the principal diseases of East Indian labourers during the year, the number of cases treated being as follows:—Malarial fever 9,055, skin diseases 5,357, digestive system 1,929, parasites 1,624, anæmia 1,301, and dysentery 1,236.

EDUCATION.

40. The total number of elementary schools in the Colony on the 31st March, 1907, was 249, of which 52 were Government schools and 199 assisted schools. During the year a Government school was opened at Buenos Ayres Village, Erin, while aid was granted to two assisted schools, Peñal (Canadian Mission) and L'Ambeau (Anglican) Tobago.

41. The number of assisted schools, classified according to their denominations, is shown in the following table:—

Assisted Schools.	Trinidad.	Tobago.	Total.
Roman Catholic	72	3	75
Church of England	35	13	48
Presbyterian	52	—	52
Wesleyan	4	7	11
Moravian	2	9	11
Total	165	32	197

42. It is satisfactory to find that both the number of scholars on the rolls as well as the average attendance show increases for the year, the total number of enrolled scholars being 41,529 and the average attendance 23,780, as compared with 40,956 and 22,458 respectively during the previous year.

43. The total expenditure on elementary education (including administration and inspection) from public funds was £45,300, as against £43,864, an increase of £1,436 over the figures of last year. Of the above expenditure £10,507 was incurred on Government schools, £29,438 on assisted schools, £1,072 on Government training schools and £867 on assisted training schools.

44. Secondary education in the Colony is provided for at the Queen's Royal College (186 pupil), St. Mary's College (230 pupils), and Naparima College (48 pupils).

CROWN LANDS.

45. Seven hundred and ninety two petitions for the sale of Crown Lands were received in 1906-7, as compared with 1,416 in 1905-6. The number of Crown grants issued was 991, as against 1,232 during the previous year, the area sold being 8,004 acres, against 12,780 acres.

46. The aggregate receipts from the sale of Crown lands dropped from £34,335 in 1905-6 to £14,347 during the past year. This is probably due to the fact that owing to the failure of the cocoa crop and to depression in trade money was scarce during the year and there was little available for the purchase of land.

47. The following table shows the lands sold in each Ward Union:—

Ward Unions.	Number of Grants.	Acreage.			Number of Lots.
		A.	R.	P.	
Arima	80	611	0	0	4
Blanchisseuse	8	83	2	21	—
Cedros	47	477	0	6	1
Chaguanas... ..	33	247	0	1	3
Couva	1	0	3	7	—
Diego Martin	17	86	0	0	3
Manzanilla... ..	147	1,882	0	25	3
Mayaro	33	329	0	2	1
Montserrat	66	489	3	39	8
Naparima	153	1,357	0	34	—
Oropuche	152	1,364	2	3	11
Savana Grande	187	1,262	2	17	21
St. Ann's	4	11	0	37	—
Tacarigua	27	108	2	15	7
Toco	27	157	2	14	—
Tobago	8	35	3	30	—
Port-of-Spain	1	—			1
Total ...	991	8,004	1	11	63

Out of the total number of grants issued 493 were in favour of East Indians, comprising 3,306 acres.

48. Steady progress continues to be made in the work of the Trigonometrical Survey of the Colony. The demarcation of the Forest Reserves was also proceeded with during the year.

49. The revenue received from minerals during the twelve months amounted to £41,617, of which asphalt was responsible for £41,230 (duty £31,241, royalty £9,989), Manjak contributing £387 (duty).

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

50. The number of offences reported to the police during the year 1906-7 was 19,297, as compared with 16,591 during the year 1905-6 and 19,654 in 1904-5. The total number of persons apprehended by the police or summoned before the magistrate was 25,047 as against 20,928 for the previous year.

The number of summary convictions included 2,081 for offences against the person, 60 for malicious injuries to property, 1,157 for offences against property other than malicious injuries, 164 for prædial larceny, 3,632 for offences against Masters and Servants Acts, and 9,404 for other offences.

51. In the superior courts 95 persons were convicted for offences against the person, 54 for offences against property other than prædial larceny, and 37 for other offences.

As a result of proceedings in the inferior courts, 3,072 persons were acquitted, while in the Supreme Court verdicts of acquittal were pronounced in 38 cases.

52. Fourteen cases of murder were tried during the year, in seven of which sentence of death was passed; in six cases judgment was given for the prisoner, while in one instance the prisoner was found to be insane.

PRISONS.

53. The total number of persons committed to prison during the year 1906-7 was 5,505, of whom 4,851 were males and 654 females. These figures show a total increase of 590 over those of the previous year.

The daily average of prisoners during the year was 529.99 males and 49.05 females.

The total number of deaths among prisoners during the year was 12 males and one female. These figures include three prisoners judicially executed.

54. The cost of prison administration for the year, inclusive of sundry supplies to district prisons, was £10,459, against which the estimated earnings of prisoners totalled £5,949.

HOSPITALS AND LUNATIC ASYLUM.

55. The number of patients remaining in the hospitals of Port-of-Spain and San Fernando on the 31st March, 1906, was 431. The total number of admissions during the year was 8,986, and the daily average in hospital during the year was 313 at Port-of-Spain and 110 at San Fernando. Of these 2,937 were discharged cured, 4,639 were relieved, 305 showed no improvement, and 891 died.

In Appendix I. will be found a tabulated return of the diseases treated, and the deaths which occurred in the hospitals of the Colony.

56. The number of patients admitted to the lunatic asylum during the year was 154, of whom 50 were discharged cured, 20 were relieved, 38 were not improved, and 66 died. The total number of inmates of the asylum at the close of the year was 611.

METEOROLOGICAL.

57. The mean rainfall for the year 1906, from observations taken at 64 stations, was 73·71 inches, the maximum, 124·84, being recorded at Santa Estella in the Manzanilla district, and the minimum, 31·23, at the police station, Moruga. At the Botanic Gardens, Port-of-Spain, the rainfall for the year was 66·98. July was the wettest month, during which 11·42 inches fell, and the driest months were January, February, March, and April, with falls amounting to 4·3, 5·0, 7·3, and 4·6 respectively.

An average of 183 hours 25 minutes' sunshine per month was recorded, a little over six hours per day, and there were ten sunless days during the year.

At the Botanic Gardens the mean annual temperature was 78·3, the mean maximum readings being 91·9 in April, and the mean minimum 66·5 in February.

The hottest months were April, March, May, and September, and the coolest January and February.

SAVINGS BANKS.

58. There were on the 31st December, 1906, 15,212 depositors in the savings banks of the Colony, as against 15,944 on the 31st December, 1905, showing a decrease of 732 depositors. The total amount deposited at the same date was £286,320, as compared with £300,908 in 1905, a decrease of £14,588.

The total amount deposited during the year 1906 was £205,099 as against £222,128 during the previous year, a decrease of £17,028. The total amount withdrawn was £227,419 as compared with £237,661, a decrease of £10,252.

The average amount to the credit of each depositor on 31st December, 1906, was £18 16s. 5d.

The number of East Indian depositors at the close of the year was 5,888, to whose credit stood a balance of £98,403, as against 6,092 depositors of the same class in 1905 with a credit of £101,095.

The above figures reflect closely the financial position of the Colony during the year. Receipts from the cocoa industry were short, owing to the failure of the crop, and depositors, instead of adding to their savings, were in many cases forced to draw upon them in order to maintain themselves.

59. The cost of administration of the bank in 1906 was £10,545, while the total revenue, from interest on investments and other sources, was £10,520, showing an excess of expenditure over revenue of £25, a small sum when the advantages of the bank to the public are taken into consideration.

POST OFFICE.

60. The total receipts from all sources under the head of post office amounted during 1906-7 to £11,049 as against £10,622 for the previous year, an increase of £427.

61. The total cost of administration of the post office, including money and postal order business and payments for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony for the year, was £19,852, as compared with £18,766 in 1905-6.

62. The total estimated number of letters and post cards received and despatched was 1,842,575; newspapers, book packets, &c., 646,992; parcels, 25,097; and telegrams, 6,808.

63. The money order transactions during the year are shown in the following table:—

—				Issued in Colony.			Paid in Colony.		
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
United Kingdom	...	...	...	62,465	13	10	1,102	19	9
Intercolonial	...	...	...	7,747	9	1	5,171	1	7
American	...	...	...	4,306	8	8	1,975	18	11
Canada	...	...	...	2,543	2	10	116	16	2
India	...	...	...	2,872	16	10	246	16	10
Postal Orders	...	...	...	11,423	19	8½	1,314	11	8
Total	...	...	...	91,359	10	11½	9,928	4	11

GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

64. The total number of passengers carried over the Government railway lines during 1906-7 was 1,280,843 as against 1,329,401 for the previous year, a substantial decrease of 48,558.

65. The aggregate amount of goods and minerals carried by rail during the year was 124,238 tons as compared with 126,006 tons during the previous year, thus showing a decrease of 1,768, the freight of cocoa being greatly diminished owing to the short crop.

66. The total receipts of the railway amounted to £89,645 and the total ordinary expenditure to £60,391, to which must be added £22,903 interest on capital in addition to the Sinking Funds provided for the loans and £8,813 expended on permanent improvements from capital.

PUBLIC WORKS.

67. The total expenditure on Public Works during the year 1906-7 was £166,522, as compared with £221,351 during the previous year. The ordinary expenditure of the department amounted to £36,004, and the maintenance of roads and bridges cost £85,531, of which £30,291 was paid to the various Local Road Boards and expended in the maintenance of the roads under their charge.

68. Besides the amounts expended for administration and maintenance of roads and bridges, a sum of £22,041 was spent on extraordinary public works and a further £22,945 on new roads and bridges.

69. The following table gives the expenditure on public works during the last five years :—

—	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	£	£	£	£	£
Public Works Department	36,261	32,697	35,109	35,397	36,005
Recurrent.					
Roads and Bridges Recur-	67,262	71,311	78,158	78,681	85,531
rent.					
Public Works Extraordinary	13,279	23,202	29,593	39,857	22,041
Roads and Bridges Extra-	51,558	49,801	56,097	67,414	22,945
ordinary.					
Total	168,360	177,011	198,957	221,351	166,522

GENERAL REMARKS.

70. The year 1906-7 will be remembered as one of unusual depression in trade. The cocoa crop dropped from just under forty-eight and a half million lbs. during the previous year to a

little over twenty-seven and a half million lbs., and although the output of sugar was normal prices were low. The prices of cocoa were also low during a considerable part of the year, but towards the end of that period better prices were obtained, which have speedily advanced since the close of the year under review to an unusually high figure. It is satisfactory to record that crop prospects, both of cocoa and sugar, for the year 1907-8 are generally considered to be good.

71. On the 30th January, 1907, a case of yellow fever occurred, followed at intervals by others, the outbreak lasting until the end of August, during which time 38 cases occurred, of which 20 proved fatal. The occurrence of cases of the disease, in some instances from ten to eighteen days after isolation of the last case, emphasized the necessity for extending the period of infection, which under the present Ordinance and Regulations is six days, and the General Quarantine Conference which sat at Barbados in June made proposals for this and other amendments of the Convention, the period of infection being extended to eighteen days.

72. In October the new Government offices were completed, and the various departments moved into them from the temporary offices which they had for over three years been occupying. The new offices are commodious and airy, and afford ample space and facilities for the storage of records. The principal Court of Justice at the southern end of the buildings and the Legislative Council Chamber, which occupies the northern extremity, are extremely handsome halls, the decoration of which reflects credit on local workmen, and the Colony may be congratulated on possessing exceptionally fine public offices.

73. The wireless telegraph system between Trinidad and Tobago, opened to the public in the beginning of the year 1906, continued to afford satisfaction. The total cost of the installation, which is duplicated, was £1,865, and the total estimated cost of the working during the year 1907-8 was £943, of which salaries of operators, messengers, and clerks absorb £681, and maintenance, repairs, oil, spares, &c., £262. The substance of the public news telegrams is transmitted daily to Tobago, and increasing use is being made of the system for private and official telegrams.

The total number of wireless telegrams transmitted to and from between Trinidad and Tobago during this, its first year's working, was 407, besides daily news telegrams. Communications with ships of war lying in harbour at Barbados and Grenada were also held, and several telegrams exchanged with other vessels within a radius of 250 miles from Trinidad.

74. The establishment during the year of a Public Officers' Guarantee Fund, which came into existence on the 1st July, is an important step which had been for some years in contemplation. The number of contributors was 365 on the 31st March, 1907, on which date there remained 45 officers still secured by a Guarantee Society. These, however, were required under the Ordinance to

become members of the fund by the 30th June, 1907, so that there are now over 400 officers who are contributors to the fund. The amount to credit of personal accounts on the 31st March was £553 7s. 4d., to income account £308 10s. 11d., and to reserve fund £61 9s. 8d.

The Auditor-General, Receiver-General, and Postmaster-General were appointed directors of the fund.

75. Committees sat and reported during the year on the questions of Railway Extension and Tariff Reform. The former Committee, after considering the merits of six different schemes of extension, recommended the simultaneous construction of lines of railway from Tabaquite to Poole, a distance of 16 miles, and from San Fernando to Siparia, which are 13½ miles apart. The vital question of ways and means for the construction of these extensions or of either of them has, however, yet to be considered. The report of the Tariff Committee has not yet been published. Both questions will be considered at the next Session of the Legislative Council.

76. On the 4th February, 1907, fresh Standing Orders were passed by the Legislative Council, providing for the holding of annual sessions for the transaction of public business. The procedure hitherto, under the old Standing Orders, was for the Council to meet on the first Monday of each month, or oftener, if specially summoned, thus spreading the work out over the whole year. Under the new system, the Council holds its sessions during the period between the 1st November and 31st March, during which meetings are held once a fortnight, or oftener, if specially summoned. A special meeting may also be held at any time during the year should the Governor deem it expedient. The advantages of the new procedure are that work is more sustained, and that consideration of all measures takes place at a time when members are nearly all present in the Colony. It frequently happened under the old system that important measures were discussed in the absence of permanent members of the Council whose places had to be temporarily filled by the appointment of persons to act in their places. A member was frequently compelled by considerations of health or business to be absent when some particular piece of legislation in which he took a deep interest was brought forward for discussion.

77. In February, 1907, the Ordinance, passed nearly three years previously, imposing an additional rate of two per cent. on the assessed value of properties in Port-of-Spain, in order to provide for the cost of the construction of the public offices destroyed during the riot which occurred in March, 1903, was repealed with the approval of the Secretary of State, the balance (£37,000) of the cost of re-building being included in the loan of £100,000 for public works already sanctioned but not yet issued.

W. M. GORDON,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Trinidad,
19th September, 1907.

APPENDIX A.

REVENUE.

	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Customs	306,146 6 9	300,080 6 1	288,537 6 9
2. Port, Harbour, Wharf, &c., Dues	10,118 7 4½	9,721 10 0	9,979 12 2½
3. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified.	220,611 17 2½	223,787 2 0½	221,317 18 1½
4. Fees of Court and Office, Payment for specified Services and Reimburse-ments in Aid.	60,908 4 3	70,872 8 9½	66,704 9 7
5. Post Office	9,531 3 1½	9,161 1 1	9,550 14 7
6. Government Railway, Tramroads and Telegraphs.	93,751 18 2½	95,607 12 9	92,814 18 9
7. Rents of Government Property	3,517 13 2½	1,230 8 2	1,390 2 3
8. Interest	18,657 12 4½	4,475 2 2½	3,747 13 6
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	4,151 15 9½	2,191 12 11	4,159 18 11
Total, exclusive of Land Sales and Immigration Funds.	727,392 16 3½	717,107 4 0½	698,202 14 8
Land Sales, Royalties, &c.	41,429 18 7	45,449 19 9	29,848 11 3½
Immigration Taxes—Receipts	42,791 2 8½	39,107 14 11	37,220 12 8½
Special Receipts	—	46,287 11 8½	—
Total Revenue	811,613 17 7	847,952 10 5	765,271 18 8

APPENDIX B.

EXPENDITURE.

	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Charges on Account of Public Debt ..	58,964 18 1	60,457 4 9	68,593 19 7
2. Pensions	23,755 3 5	24,527 13 1	26,847 10 3
3. The Governor and Legislature	6,629 2 0½	6,555 15 4	6,942 1 0
4. Colonial Secretary's Department ..	4,546 4 1½	4,614 19 10	3,916 17 9½
5. Auditor-General's Department	3,212 4 0	3,361 13 8	3,484 8 5
6. Military Department	5,569 8 2	5,445 9 11½	4,605 12 1
7. Immigration Department	15,317 12 2½	25,639 17 2½	22,290 19 6
8. Receiver-General's Department	11,309 10 5½	10,316 13 4½	9,432 8 9
9. Savings Bank Department	10,990 1 2½	2,013 2 8½	2,112 16 7½
10. Crown Lands and Survey Department..	22,325 10 9½	22,509 13 7½	19,808 12 6
11. Customs Department	8,873 1 2	8,674 13 10½	8,782 15 8
12. Revenue and Preventive Service	—	—	511 19 6½
13. Constabulary Department	49,936 16 2	58,781 16 8	58,221 13 5
14. Registrar-General's Department	3,603 12 5	4,166 14 2	4,277 12 1
15. Post Office and Telegraph Cable Subsidy.	31,204 6 6	24,503 9 1½	23,876 11 6
16. Port and Marine Department	9,729 0 3½	8,751 11 5½	6,712 15 8
17. Printing and Stationery Department..	6,825 5 8	6,549 13 11½	8,165 17 8½
18. Government Analyst's Department ..	1,228 8 8½	1,472 10 8	1,687 8 6
19. Legal Department	13,204 13 10	13,215 14 0½	13,329 15 7
20. Magistracy	12,645 14 4½	13,099 11 3	13,067 11 4½
21. Wardens and Supervisors	16,523 10 7½	17,440 15 4	18,566 17 7½
22-24. Medical Department	76,999 0 3½	81,162 4 10	79,632 11 2
25. Education Department	48,914 18 6	51,068 10 11	52,491 9 0
26. Prisons, Reformatory, and Industrial Schools.	14,703 13 6½	15,448 3 1½	15,533 14 9
27. Transport	235 11 1	186 5 5	228 13 8½
28. Ecclesiastical	10,672 0 8	10,275 17 4	10,880 4 8
29. Crown Agents—London	685 19 1	729 8 8	599 5 1
30. Botanic Gardens and Agricultural Department.	11,225 10 2½	11,794 2 5	11,478 14 9½
31. Mines	—	1,212 17 11	1,324 14 6
32. Fire Brigades	3,411 8 4½	250 13 10	228 16 8½
33. Miscellaneous Services	41,832 19 3	40,142 7 9½	33,229 9 9
34. Government Railway Department ..	53,133 2 11	58,968 14 6	63,074 5 2
35. Public Works Department, Recurrent..	35,108 16 0	35,397 13 0	36,004 15 7
36. Roads and Bridges, Recurrent	78,158 8 8	78,681 0 11½	85,531 3 2½
7A. Immigration—Two-thirds charged to Special Funds.	691,475 12 10	707,417 4 9½	715,274 3 4
Railway Works—Extraordinary	30,635 5 1½	51,279 14 11½	44,581 19 0½
37. Public Works—Extraordinary	2,457 3 6	4,013 0 10	5,631 14 8
38. Roads and Bridges—Extraordinary ..	29,593 2 1½	36,856 12 8½	22,040 17 9½
38. Roads and Bridges—Extraordinary ..	50,096 12 6	67,414 12 9½	22,945 4 7½
Total Expenditure	810,257 13 1	869,981 6 1	810,473 19 5½

APPENDIX C.

IMPORTS and EXPORTS during the last FIVE YEARS.

Year.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Total Value.	Value, Exclusive of Bullion and Specie.	Total Value.	Value, Exclusive of Bullion and Specie.
	£	£	£	£
1902-3	2,672,087	2,640,001	2,472,181	2,437,843
1903-4	2,526,450	2,458,429	2,275,341	2,241,690
1904-5	2,629,051	2,518,589	2,479,274	2,414,775
1905-6	3,303,611	2,900,837	3,168,706	2,848,066
1906-7	3,120,717	2,965,916	2,872,325	2,670,671

APPENDIX D.

QUANTITIES and VALUES of CHIEF ARTICLES of LOCAL PRODUCE EXPORTED during years 1902-3, 1903-4, 1904-5, 1905-6, 1906-7.

	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Cocoa ...	37,585,184	36,154,048	40,753,776	48,416,256	27,570,928
	£	£	£	£	£
	907,531	897,033	887,670	1,041,109	802,073
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Sugar ...	47,259	40,384	47,578	36,241	45,004
	£	£	£	£	£
	410,000	435,931	722,113	451,986	430,182
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Coconuts ...	10,397,128	9,985,207	10,554,569	11,037,932	13,089,937
	£	£	£	£	£
	17,028	20,041	21,832	29,228	40,500
Timber ...	3,321	4,472	3,920	12,951	57,018

APPENDIX E.

LONDON PRICES of SUGAR and COCOA PER CWT.

Year.	Sugar (Vacuum Pan Crystals).		Cocoa.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s.
1897	11 0	to 13 6	65 0	to 73
1898	15 6	" 16 6	71 0	" 75
1899	14 6	" 16 0	72 0	" 80
1900	13 9	" 16 3	68 0	" 75
1901-2	15 9	" 16 0	65 0	" 70
1902-3	14 0	" 16 0	58 0	" 67
1903-4	14 0	" 15 9	58 0	" 69
1904-5	14 6	" 26 0	55 0	" 71
1905-6	15 9	" 18 8	47 1	" 51
1906-7	13 0	" 18 0	52 0	" 96

APPENDIX F.

Countries.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Imports from:						
United Kingdom	920,509	983,216	944,804	938,788	957,594	922,184
British Colonies	213,689	286,607	284,227	283,183	336,415	361,572
United States ...	674,147	702,189	676,769	677,421	651,070	677,283
Venezuela ...	600,410	489,406	433,787	533,986	658,587	914,793
Other Foreign Countries.	242,845	210,669	187,863	190,673	199,945	244,385
Total ...	2,651,600	2,672,087	2,526,450	2,629,051	3,303,611	3,120,717

Countries.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Value of Exports to:						
United Kingdom	706,173	626,194	603,981	817,316	828,411	701,919
British Colonies	80,519	103,848	66,795	295,020	579,569	279,929
United States ...	817,244	822,286	945,282	694,623	851,042	974,846
Venezuela ...	342,984	298,435	200,428	83,304	261,672	315,446
Other Foreign Countries.	498,731	621,488	458,865	589,011	643,012	600,185
Total ...	2,445,651	2,472,181	2,275,841	2,479,274	3,168,706	2,872,325

Total trade, 1906-7 £5,993,042
Average, 1901-2—1906-7 5,436,166

APPENDIX G.
SHIPPING IN 1906-7.

Entered.

From	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	7	3,837	39	95,175	46	99,012
U. S. America ...	15	6,815	48	95,197	63	102,012
B. N. America ...	15	4,218	11	16,219	26	20,437
B. W. Indies and B. Guiana	452	14,893	210	371,852	662	386,745
Venezuela ...	1,036	13,839	188	144,544	1,224	158,383
Other Countries ...	32	16,105	77	118,873	109	134,978
Total, 1906-7 ...	1,557	59,707	573	841,860	2,130	901,567
Total, 1905-6 ...	1,778	80,730	626	904,007	2,404	984,737

Cleared.

To	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
United Kingdom ...	5	2,396	4	5,803	9	8,199
U. S. America ...	27	13,657	37	58,663	64	72,320
B. N. America ...	3	1,835	18	27,577	21	29,412
B. W. Indies and B. Guiana	447	11,624	188	323,629	635	335,253
Venezuela ..	1,035	15,022	260	318,297	1,295	333,319
Other Countries ...	35	10,095	82	120,337	117	130,432
Total, 1906-7 ...	1,552	54,629	589	854,306	2,141	908,935
Total, 1905-6 ...	1,737	79,602	616	898,782	2,353	978,384

Percentage of Tonnage of British Shipping entered in Colony = 56 per cent.
 " " " cleared from Colony = 41 "
 " " " trading to and from
 Colony = 48.55 "

APPENDIX H.
NATIONALITY of VESSELS ENTERED.

Countries.	1901-2.	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British ...	394,800	555,080	621,024	673,893	682,359	585,733
U. S. America ...	51,439	58,678	31,493	22,778	11,296	10,359
Other Countries	103,908	203,397	285,112	312,107	291,082	305,475
Total ...	550,147	797,155	937,629	1,008,778	984,737	901,567

APPENDIX I.

RETURN OF DISEASES and DEATHS at the HOSPITALS.

Diseases.	1906-1907.	
	Admis- sions.	Deaths.
GENERAL DISEASES.		
Chicken-pox	21	—
Measles	9	—
Influenza... ..	17	3
Mumps	1	—
Diphtheria	6	2
Enteric Fever	132	50
Yellow "	3	1
Malarial Fever—		
Benign Tertian	1,119	13
Malignant	79	52
Remittent	37	12
Malarial Cachexia	40	3
Hæmoglobinuric Fever	4	2
Phagedæna	1	1
Erysipelas	27	5
Pyæmia	3	2
Septicæmia	9	12
Sapremia	4	—
Syphilis—		
Primary	34	—
Secondary	77	1
Tertiary	86	17
Congenital	15	8
Tetanus	22	16
Gonorrhœa—		
Acute	179	—
Chronic	4	—
Gonorrhœal Arthritis	16	—
" Conjunctivitis	3	—
" Ulcer	1	—
" Bubo	41	—
Warts	4	—
Pulex Penetrans	5	—
Ascaris Lumbricoides	36	2
Filariasis... ..	5	1
Oxyuris Vermicularis	1	—
Ankylostoma	413	59
Tinea	1	—
Alcoholism, Acute	22	—
Delirium Tremens	1	—
Premature Birth	21	21
Malformations	4	—
Imperforate Anus	3	—
Debility	263	63
Old Age	117	38
Malnutrition	35	26
Hæmorrhage of Umbilicus	2	1
Ulceration " "	5	—
Rheumatism	204	1
Rheumatoid Arthritis	2	—

APPENDIX I—continued.

Return of Diseases and Deaths—continued.

Diseases.	1906-1907.	
	Admis- sions.	Deaths.
General Diseases—cont.		
Gout	1	—
Multiple Cyst	4	—
Rickets	18	—
Elephantiasis	12	—
Tumours... ..	19	—
Cancer	10	1
Alimentary System	17	10
Respiratory "	1	—
Reproductive "	42	10
Epithelioma	14	—
Sarcoma	13	4
General Tuberculosis	17	1
Tubercular Ulceration	43	21
Scrofula	1	—
Leprosy	30	5
Yaws	1,000	—
Anæmia	485	68
Diabetes Mellitus	11	1
LOCAL DISEASES.		
Diseases of the Nervous System	414	50
" " Eye	272	—
" " Ear	21	—
" " Circulatory System	260	65
" " Respiratory "	1,104	350
" " Digestive "	1,628	348
" " Lymphatic "	515	163
" " Generative "	785	20
Affections connected with Pregnancy	125	7
" " Parturition	547	18
" consequent on Parturition	39	10
Diseases of the Female Breast	35	—
" " Organs of Locomotion	143	9
" " Connective Tissue	290	1
" " Skin	635	24
Poisons—		
Metals and their Salts	2	2
Carbolic Acid	1	—
Organic Substances	6	—
Vegetable Poison	13	—
Scorpion Sting	9	—
Human Bite	2	—
Snake "	5	—
Tarantula Sting	2	—
Fish	7	1
Centipede Bite	2	—
Dog	1	—
General Injuries	81	14
Local	768	5
No appreciable Disease... ..	600	—

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
516	Northern Nigeria	1905-1906.
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"
524	Jamaica	1905-1906.
525	Uganda	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906-1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	"
535	Malta	1906-1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906-1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
539	Leeward Islands	"
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906-1907
543	Bahamas	"
544	Barbados	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904-5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate	Report on Kenia Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1905-6.
43	Caicos Islands	Fibre.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 587.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

REPORT FOR 1907-8.

(For Report for 1906-7, *see* No. 545.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1908.



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No. 587.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

(For Report for 1906-7, *see* No. 545.)

THE ACTING-GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

1st October, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1907-8, and a report thereon by the Acting-Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

S. W. KNAGGS,

Acting-Governor.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOR 1907-8.

I.—FINANCE.

REVENUE.

The revenue for the year 1907-8 amounted to £871,201, being £105,929 more than that for 1906-7, which had shown a decline of £82,681 as compared with the revenue for 1905-6.

This large increase of revenue is attributable to the difference in the cocoa crop reaped in the last two years, and to the improved prices obtained in 1907-8. The crop of 1906-7 was abnormally short, the exports for that year having reached only 27,570,928 lbs., as against 48,416,256 lbs. for 1905-6, and 49,730,576 lbs. for 1907-8.

The prices obtained for cocoa, which had risen somewhat during 1906-7, improved still further during 1907-8; and as a result of the good crop and the high prices, the total increase of revenue was distributed mainly under the following heads:—

“Customs,” £27,074; “Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue,” £24,226; “Government Railway,” £13,387; “Land Sales, Royalties, &c,” £20,949; and “Immigration Taxes,” £18,600.

EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure for the year amounted to £781,038, as against £810,474 for the previous year, a decrease of £29,436.

A comparison of the expenditure under the various heads in the annual estimates shows that there were decreases, amounting in all to £54,303, of which the principal occurred under “Public Works Extraordinary,” £16,784; “Roads and Bridges Extraordinary,” £14,728; and the following heads of ordinary expenditure, viz., “Immigration Department,” £16,680; and “Public Works Department,” £2,024.

The heads of ordinary expenditure that chiefly shew increases for the year are “Charges on account of the Public Debt,” £2,243; “Revenue and Preventive Service Department,” which was created shortly before the commencement of the year under report, £4,328; “Constabulary Department,” £1,095; “Port and Marine Department,” £1,297; “Education Department,” £1,102; “Prisons, Reformatories, and Industrial Schools,” £1,235; “Miscellaneous Services,” £1,819; “Government Railway,” £2,307; and “Roads and Bridges Recurrent,” £2,354.

It will be observed that the chief reduction in expenditure was in connection with extraordinary works, which were curtailed in consequence of the comparative failure of the cocoa crop of 1906-7, and the concurrent diminished revenue for that year.

The surplus balance of the colony, which stood at £23,406 on the 31st March, 1907, was raised to £113,568 on the 31st March, 1908.

The revenue and expenditure of the last five years have been :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1903-4	£804,440	£818,860
1904-5	811,614	810,258
1905-6	*847,953	869,981
1906-7	763,272	810,474
1907-8	871,201	781,038

No changes were made in the system of taxation during the year under review.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The assets of the Colony on the 31st March, 1908, amounted to £525,679, and the liabilities (exclusive of the funded debt referred to below) to £412,111, the surplus of assets over liabilities being £113,568.

DEBT.

The funded debt on the 31st March was £1,075,053, of which total £52,460 consisted of debentures redeemable by annual drawings. £422,593 of 4 per cent. inscribed stock, and £600,000 of 3 per cent. inscribed stock. The total accumulations of sinking funds at the same date aggregated £135,907.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of imports and exports during the year, including bullion and specie and transhipments, was £7,282,327, as against £5,993,042 for the year 1906-7, and £6,472,317 for 1905-6.

* Including £40,874, the balance to the credit of the Public Officers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund transferred to revenue to the year on the Government taking over the fund.

There was, as these figures show, in consequence of the favourable cocoa crop, some improvement on the trade conditions that prevailed in 1906-7, notwithstanding the prevalence of cases of yellow fever during a part of the year, with the attendant drawbacks entailed by the consequent quarantine restrictions. It must be borne in mind, however, that the year 1906-7 was generally recognised and described as the worst for trade that we had had for at least a decade.

IMPORTS.

The total value of imports was £3,374,824 as compared with £3,120,717 for the previous year, thus showing an increase of £254,107; of which £249,850 was on account of dutiable goods, and £36,229 on account of free goods. The value of bullion and specie imported was £35,065 less than in 1906-7.

The list of articles imported which show an increase in value over the previous year is a fairly long one, but the following may be mentioned as the most important. Flour, £16,100; butter substitutes, £9,900; cocoa, £131,300; coal and patent fuel, £22,600; oats, £8,000; fish, £3,200; hardware, £16,400; malt liquors, £11,400; meats, £7,800; textiles, £92,200; tobacco, £3,700; wine, £7,066.

With regard to these items, the value of the flour and meats imported was greater than in 1906-7, although the quantities were less, owing to the higher prices in America; cocoa, which shows an increase of 2,762,825 lbs. over the previous year, came principally from Venezuela, attracted by the high prices that prevailed; the increase in respect of coal and patent fuel was evidently due to the efforts which were being made to establish a coaling station at Port-of-Spain; the increases in respect of malt liquors and textiles may be attributed to the prosperity resulting from large crops and high prices; and the increase in regard to tobacco is probably due to some extent to the new preventive service, and partly to the prosperity of the year.

The articles which chiefly showed decreases of value were dholl, £5,800; machinery, £18,600; and manure, £6,300. The causes assigned for the decreases are, in the case of dholl, an adjustment of stocks; and in that of machinery, the large importations that occurred in 1906-7; whilst as regards manure, the quantity imported was in excess of the previous year's imports by over 500 tons, although the value was less.

EXPORTS.

The total value of the exports for the year amounted to £3,907,503 as compared with £2,872,325 for the previous year, and £3,168,706 for the year 1905-6, thus showing an increase of £1,035,178 over the year 1906-7. The increase in respect of the produce of the Colony was £1,056,757, and in respect of other goods, exclusive of bullion and specie, £62,557; whilst

bullion and specie show a decline of £87,229, due probably to the cessation of work in most of the Venezuelan mines.

The particular items responsible for the principal increases were, Trinidad cocoa, £984,300; Venezuelan cocoa, £157,800; sugar, £90,900; and asphalt, £25,500.

The principal decreases, besides that in respect of bullion and specie already referred to, were on account of timber, £49,100; and Balata gum, £73,100.

The quantity of Trinidad cocoa exported was 49,730,576 lbs., representing a value of £1,786,386; whilst the corresponding figures for 1906-7 were 27,570,928 lbs., of the value of £802,073. The exports of sugar amounted to 46,270 tons, valued at £521,054, as compared with 45,004 tons exported during 1906-7, of the value of £430,182.

The total values of the imports and exports during the last five years have been:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
1903-4	£2,526,450	£2,275,341
1904-5	2,629,051	2,479,274
1905-6	3,303,611	3,168,706
1906-7	3,120,717	2,872,325
1907-8	3,374,824	3,907,503

In connection with the development of the Colony's trade with Canada may be noticed an increase in the sugar exported thereto in 1907-8 over the previous year's figures amounting to £46,665 in value; whilst the similar increase on account of cocoa was £10,560.

Some indication of the direction of the colony's trade is afforded by the following figures for the last three years:—

COUNTRIES.	1905-6.	1906-7.	1907-8.
VALUES OF IMPORTS FROM:	£	£	£
United Kingdom	957,594	922,184	1,050,768
British Colonies	836,415	361,572	314,463
United States	651,070	677,283	817,057
Venezuela	658,537	914,793	909,383
Other Foreign Countries ...	199,945	244,885	283,153
Total	3,303,611	3,120,717	3,374,824
VALUES OF EXPORTS TO:			
United Kingdom	828,411	701,919	821,321
British Colonies	579,569	279,929	313,936
United States	851,042	974,846	1,015,777
Venezuela	261,672	315,446	374,327
Other Foreign Countries ...	648,012	600,185	1,382,142
Total	3,168,706	2,872,325	3,907,503

Amongst the most noticeable features in connection with these figures is the increase in the value of exports to other foreign countries during the year under review from £600,185 to £1,382,142, which is mainly accounted for by the increase in the value of cocoa exported to France, from £269,539 in 1906-7 to £1,025,748 in 1907-8.

MINES.

Mining for manjak was carried on almost continuously during the year at Vistabella in Naparima. On an average 57 persons were employed below, and 12 above the mines. No deaths or accidents occurred.

The output amounted to about 2,114 statute tons.

Little or no statistical evidence of the petroleum industry is available at present, but from the progress made by the Canadian Syndicate at Guayaguayare, where several successful wells have been bored, there appears to be every indication of the probability of a great industry being formed in the Colony. During the past year development work has been suspended in the above-named locality.

A new area has been opened up by the Trinidad Petroleum Company, Limited, at Guapo in the Gulf of Paria, where drilling operations are in progress; work has been actively conducted and favourable results are anticipated.

Another area is being exploited in the neighbourhood of the Pitch Lake, and so far very satisfactory results have been obtained.

Some 3,000 feet of boring have been put down in the Colony during the year.

A geological survey of the oil-bearing area has now been made, and maps and reports are available.

Prospecting licences and leases for petroleum lands can be obtained from the Governor of Trinidad.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

The provision of more efficient means of dealing with questions in connection with the agricultural industries of the Colony, more especially as regards the prevention and cure of disease, had for some time engaged the attention of the Government previous to the commencement of the year under review; and a vote of £1,000 was provided in the Estimates for the year for the purpose of "Investigation and extirpation of disease in Cocoa," which enabled the assistance of Mr. O. W. Barrett of the United States Department of Agriculture to be obtained for a few months during the year, as a temporary measure; and concurrently a committee was appointed to consider the question of the sufficiency of the existing legislation in regard to plant protection in the Colony.

Later in the year, and towards its close, the Governor proposed in his address to the Legislative Council on the Estimates for the current year, to make permanent provision for the objects in view by amalgamating in a new Agricultural Department the existing Botanical Department, the Government Laboratory, the Government Stock Farms, and the two Government Experimental Estates known as the "St. Augustine Estate" and the "River Estate," under a Director of Agriculture, and securing the appointment, in addition to the existing staffs of the Departments named, of an agriculturist, a mycologist, and an entomologist. It is also proposed that the Director shall be assisted by an advisory Agricultural Board, to be appointed by the Governor from the Members of the existing Agricultural Society.

These proposals, which were subsequently referred to a committee to advise as to the formation of the proposed new department, are still under consideration.

LAND GRANTS, &c.

The total number of grants of Crown lands issued during the year was 1,157, as compared with 991 for the previous year. The total acreage alienated, exclusive of 73 village lots, was 9,494 acres, the corresponding figures for 1906-7 having been 8,004 acres and 63 village lots.

The number of petitions for the sale of Crown lands during the year was 1,456 as against 792 in 1906-7; and the total amount received on account of land sales was £36,088 as against £14,347 derived from the like source in 1906-7—the price for Crown lands being £2 10s. per acre.

SHIPPING.

The total number of steam vessels that entered at the various ports of the Colony during the year was 591, with a total tonnage of 850,354, as compared with 573 for 1906-7, with a tonnage of 841,860; and the number of sailing vessels that entered for 1907-8 was 1,795, with a tonnage of 59,462, as against 1,553 for 1906-7, with a tonnage of 59,707. The increase in the number of sailing vessels that entered, in conjunction with the decrease in their tonnage, is accounted for by the small boats arriving from Venezuela.

Of the total number of steamers that entered during the year, (viz. 591), 325 were British vessels having a total tonnage of 570,480; whilst the remaining 266 were distributed as follows:—

Number.	Nationality.	Tonnage.
50 ...	French ...	75,277
59 ...	Dutch ...	67,515
36 ...	German ...	59,128
19 ...	Norwegian ...	20,187
18 ...	Danish ...	29,110
78 ...	Venezuelan ...	16,784
6 ...	Italian ...	11,873

The number of steamers that cleared for foreign ports during the year was 584, and the number of sailing vessels 1,828. Of the latter number, 1,450 were Venezuelan boats, and vessels of comparatively small tonnage.

The total shipping inwards and outwards for the last 5 years is shown by the following figures :—

YEAR.	TONNAGE INWARDS.		TONNAGE OUTWARDS.	
	Sailing.	Steam.	Sailing.	Steam.
1903-4	...	...	...	...
1904-5	...	...	...	...
1905-6	...	...	...	...
1906-7	...	...	...	...
1907-8	...	...	...	...

III.—LEGISLATION.

The number of ordinances passed during the year was forty-six, being ordinances 13 to 38, inclusive, of 1907, and ordinances 1 to 20, inclusive, of 1908.

The majority of these were amending ordinances, most of them being for the purpose of correcting errors that had escaped notice in the revision of the Statute Book, which was brought to completion in 1905.

The most important pieces of legislation were an ordinance to provide for the Regulation of mines, borings, and quarries, the first attempt at legislation in the Colony to provide for the inspection and regulation of mines, borings, and quarries with a view to their safe working and the prevention of accidents; an ordinance relating to gunpowder and other explosive substances, the objects of which were to re-enact the provisions of the existing law on the subject and to make further provision for the safe-keeping of gunpowder and other explosives combined with greater facilities to persons dealing in gunpowder and safety cartridges; and the Port-of-Spain Town Board Ordinance, which provided for the amalgamation of the three existing authorities responsible for the control of the affairs of the town, viz., the Port-of-Spain Town Commissioners who had been called into existence in 1899, and the Water Authority and Sewerage Board that had both been created in 1904.

IV.—EDUCATION.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

The total number of elementary schools at the end of the year under review was 250, having increased by one during the year. The number of Government Schools remained the same, viz., 52; whilst the Assisted Schools numbered 198 as against 197 at the end of the previous year. The distribution of these amongst the different denominations was as follows :—

Roman Catholic ...	...	...	...	76
Church of England ...	...	...	...	48
Presbyterian ...	...	...	...	52
Wesleyan ...	...	...	...	11
Moravian ...	...	...	...	11

Forty-three of the above were special Indian Schools, one being Roman Catholic, two Anglican, and 40 Canadian Mission (Presbyterian) Schools.

The number of children on the rolls for all the schools of the colony on March 31st, 1908, was 44,029, the available accommodation was sufficient for 41,310, and the average daily attendance for the year was 24,291, the number of scholars on the rolls being 2,500 more than on the 31st March, 1907, and the average daily attendance having exceeded that for the year 1906-7 by 511.

The average daily attendance for the year compared with the mean number of scholars on the rolls shews a percentage of 56·8 nearly, which may be regarded as fairly creditable in the absence of compulsory education, and in view of the fact that in many cases children have to travel some distance from their homes and that the tropical rainfall must necessarily interfere seriously with their attendance.

The public expenditure on account of elementary education amounted during 1907-8 to £46,440, as against £45,300 in 1906-7. Of this former sum, £10,735 was expended upon Government Elementary Schools, and £1,014 on Government Training Schools; £30,332 on assisted elementary schools and £940 on assisted training schools; the balance being devoted to administration and supervision and to miscellaneous expenses. This expenditure upon elementary education represents about six per cent. of the total expenditure of the colony for the year. The expenditure on the assisted schools beyond the Government grants, is shown by the returns furnished by the managers to have been, comparatively, very small.

With regard to the teaching of agriculture in the elementary schools, which was introduced some seven or eight years back, it is reported that of the 203 schools examined in practical agriculture during the year 1907-8, 67 obtained the highest award of "Very good," these figures being identical with those of the previous year. The reports on the school gardens continue to

be favourable, and greater attention appears to be given therein to experimental and nursery work.

School horticultural shows were held, as in previous years, during the months of October and November, 1907, at four centres with creditable success.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The attendance at the Queen's Royal College ranged from 185 in the second term of 1907 to 202 in the first term of 1908, the latter being larger than the attendance of any previous term. At the two schools affiliated to the Royal College the attendance was, for St. Mary's College 230, and for the Naparima College 50.

The boys of the two higher classes of the colleges, numbering 72 in all, were examined for the Cambridge Senior and Junior Local Examinations; and it is worthy of remark that only four first classes were awarded to Colonial centres in the Senior Examination out of 579 entries from 17 colonies, and that all were gained by Trinidad boys.

The lower classes of the colleges were examined by examiners appointed by the Cambridge University Examinations Syndicate, the total number of boys entered for this examination having been 304.

No provision is made by the Government for the secondary education of girls.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

The year under review marks the first year's work of a Board of Industrial Training constituted under an Ordinance passed in the year 1906, for the purpose of carrying into effect a system of apprenticeship in the Colony and registration of qualified artisans.

As a result of its first year's work the Board has issued 1,985 certificates to artisans in various crafts, out of a total of 2,843 applications, and granted 70 licences empowering employers of labour to take apprentices, out of a total of 151 applications; and it proposes to devote its attention to the initiation of definite measures for the promotion of industrial training and the raising of the standard of craftsmanship generally. The Board's expenditure from public funds amounted to not quite £120.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

The two principal hospitals are in Port-of-Spain and San Fernando, respectively. At the former the admissions during the year numbered 6,015, the discharges 5,322, and the deaths

715; the number of inmates on the 31st March, 1908, having been 298.

At the San Fernando Hospital the admissions during the year were 3,024, the discharges 2,659, and the deaths 382; whilst the inmates on the 31st March, 1908, numbered 88.

There are also seven district hospitals, one of them situated in Scarborough, the chief town of Tobago; and two hospitals for the special treatment of patients suffering from Yaws; one in Trinidad with 165 inmates on the 31st March, 1908; and the other in Tobago, with 109 inmates at the same date. The total number of patients in the district hospitals on the 31st March was 159.

ASYLUMS.

The lunatic asylum, situated in the St. Ann's Valley, about one mile from the limits of Port-of-Spain, had 638 inmates on the 31st March, 1908. The number admitted during the year was 161; the number discharged, 56; and 78 deaths occurred in the institution.

The leper asylum which is situated about two miles from Port-of-Spain, contained 267 inmates on the 31st March last. The number admitted during the year was 89; the number discharged, 41; and the number of deaths, 43.

POOR-HOUSES.

The house of refuge, which is maintained by the Government for incurables and the indigent sick, contained 377 inmates on the 31st March. The number admitted during the year was 286, the number discharged, 74; and the number of deaths, 191.

REFORMATORIES AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

There are two reformatories and two industrial schools which are aided by Government Capitation Grants. One of each class of institution is under the management of the Church of England and the other under that of the Roman Catholic Church.

SAVINGS BANKS.

The chief savings banks are in Port-of-Spain and San Fernando.

	Port-of-Spain. San Fernando.	
	£	£
No. of depositors on 31st December, 1907.	6,540	2,324
Amount of deposits during 1907	143,188	36,349
Amount of withdrawals during 1907.	124,954	33,804

There are also 12 branch savings banks, one in Tobago (212 depositors), and 11 in the country districts of Trinidad, under the management of the Wardens.

Compared with the figures for 1906, the total deposits for 1907 show an increase of £28,350, and the total withdrawals a decrease of £29,238.

The number of East Indian depositors at the close of the year was 6,361, to whose credit there was a balance of £111,675, as against 5,888 depositors of the same class in 1906, with £98,403 to their credit.

There are five penny banks, with a credit balance of £47.

The cost of administration of the banks in 1907 was £11,276, while the total revenue from interest on investments and other sources was £11,499, showing an excess of revenue over expenditure of £223.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of offences reported to the constabulary during the year 1907-8 was 18,812, as compared with 19,297 in 1906-7, and 16,591 in 1905-6. The total number of persons apprehended by the constabulary, or summoned before the magistrates, was 24,710, as compared with 25,047 for the previous year.

The number of summary convictions was 217 less than in the previous year, and included 2,323 for offences against the person, 82 for malicious injuries to property, 1,298 for offences against property other than malicious injuries, 152 for prædial larceny, 3,231 for offences against Masters' and Servants' Acts (which includes Acts relating to indentured immigrants), and 9,195 for other offences.

In the superior courts there were 79 convictions for offences against the person, 50 for offences against property other than prædial larceny, and 31 for other offences.

The acquittals were 3,182 in the inferior courts, and 62 in the superior courts.

There were 19 cases of murder tried, sentences of death being passed in three. In eight cases the prisoners charged were convicted of manslaughter. In one case the sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life.

PRISONS.

The total number of persons committed to prison during the year was 5,620, of whom 4,915 were males and 705 females; an increase of 115 over the number in 1906-7.

‡ The daily average number in prison during the year was 574·46 males, and 50·42 females.

There were seven deaths during the year (all males) excluding those judicially executed. One death was due to suicide by strangulation.

The cost of the prison administration for the year (district prisons included) was £11,671. The earnings of the prisoners is estimated at £7,303.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The total estimated population on the 31st March, 1908, was 334,543, arrived at as follows:—

Population (estimated) on 31st March, 1907	...	329,508
Natural increase (excess of births over deaths)...		2,505
Excess of arrivals over departures	...	2,530
		334,543

The population taken at the last census (1901) was 273,899.

The total number of births recorded during the year was 11,126, an increase of 249 over those of last year: the deaths numbered 8,621, as against 7,937 of the previous year, an increase of 684.

The birth-rate per thousand of the population was 33·04, and the death-rate 25·6.

The principal causes of mortality during the year were as follows:—

Diarrhoea	...	...	894, against 1,335 in 1906-7.
Fevers	...	...	1,075, „ 885 „
Phthisis	...	...	629, „ 512 „
Enteritis	...	...	341, „ 379 „
Bronchitis	...	...	364, „ 291 „
Pneumonia	...	...	355, „ 269 „

As was the case in the previous year, the excess of arrivals over departures was small, owing principally to the fact that labourers continue to be attracted to the Panama Canal, where good wages are obtainable.

HEALTH AND SANITATION.

The health conditions throughout the colony were not very satisfactory during the greater part of the year, although epidemic disease (excepting mumps, whooping cough, and a mild form of influenza) does not appear to have existed to any serious extent.

Yellow fever, of which there had been five cases at the close of the last financial year (January to March 1907), continued to recur at intervals until the 20th August, 1907, when the 33rd case was recorded, and proved fatal on the 22nd August. After a short intermission, another case occurred in San Fernando on 1st November, followed by eight further cases at intervals up to the 1st March, 1908, the financial year closing with 47 cases in all from the first appearance of the disease, 14 months earlier.

Of the 47 cases recorded, 28 proved fatal—25 in Port-of-Spain and 3 in the country districts. This represented a gross percentage mortality rate of 59·57, and rates of 64·1 and 37·5, for town and country respectively.

The following statement details some interesting features of the incidence, etc., of the disease.

Total number of cases.	Sex.		Average age.		Race.			Number of deaths.		Number of recoveries.		Death-rate. Gross.	Death-rate. Percentage of attacks.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	White.	Coloured.	Black.	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.
47	32	15	25·9	23·46	40	5	2	18	10	14	5	59·57	56·2	63·3

Of the persons attacked 10 were natives of the West Indies, 1 was an East Indian indentured immigrant, and the remainder were persons who had resided in the West Indies for periods varying from 4 days to 13 years.

During the year under review there were two cases of bubonic plague. The cases occurred in the persons of two native children, aged 8 and 9 years, residing in the same house. They were admitted to hospital on the 3rd June, 1907, and both died within two days.

Measures directed against the spread of infection were put into effect, and no further development of human plague was recorded up to the close of the financial year.

CLIMATE.

The climate of the Colony is healthy, and European residents who take ordinary precautions enjoy as good health as they did in a colder climate. The observations taken at the various stations show the mean rainfall for the year 1907 to have been 74·19 inches. The wettest months were June (10·10), July (11·27) and August (9·58), while in February, March, and April only 1·53, 2·68, and 1·71 inches were recorded.

At the St. Clair station, Botanic Gardens, the mean annual temperature was 78·0, the mean maximum reading being 89·3 in October, and the mean minimum 66·8 in February.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

POSTAL.

There are 71 post offices, 19 money order offices, and 31 telegraph offices.

The total receipts from all sources under the head of Post Office during 1907-8 amounted to £10,625, as against £11,049 for the previous year; a decrease of £423, chiefly in respect of commissions on money and postal orders.

The total cost of administration of the post office, including money and postal order business, payments of conveyance of mails beyond the colony, and transit charges under the Postal Union for the year was £20,461, as compared with £19,852 in 1906-7.

These figures show a net deficit of £9,836.

The total estimated number of letters and postcards received and despatched was 1,937,841, newspapers, book-packets, &c., 718,330, parcels 28,426, and telegrams 7,083.

The money and postal orders issued in the colony during the year amounted to £51,454, those to the United Kingdom representing a total of £23,269, to India £3,227, to America and Canada £6,949, and to the colonies £8,136.

£11,693 is the total of the amounts remitted to the colony during the year.

TELEPHONE SERVICE.

There is a complete system of telephonic communication in Port-of-Spain, which has been extended to the principal towns and out-stations. The service is worked by a company.

TELEGRAPHS.

There is direct telegraphic communication with British Guiana, Grenada, and St. Croix, and thence via Canada or the United States, with Europe. The internal telegraphs, constructed by the Government, comprise about 85 miles.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

The wireless telegraph system between Trinidad and Tobago, established in 1906, gave satisfactory results during the year.

The following number of messages passed :—

		Private.	Official.	
From Trinidad to Tobago	...	240	78	318
„ Tobago to Trinidad	...	245	64	309

Every opportunity to communicate with ships equipped with wireless apparatus was taken advantage of, and there were 13

such communications during the year from the Trinidad station and five from the Tobago station.

H.M.S. "Scylla" communicated with Trinidad several times from Grenada and once from St. Vincent (200 miles distant), and with Tobago when she was 150 miles away.

IX.—MILITARY AND CONSTABULARY.

MILITARY.

A Volunteer Rifle Corps was established in Port-of-Spain in 1879.

CONSTABULARY.

The constabulary force consists of the inspector-general, 1 deputy inspector-general, 1 adjutant, 4 inspectors, 6 sub-inspectors, and 669 non-commissioned officers and men.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

RAILWAYS.

The total number of passengers carried over the Government Railway lines during 1907-8 was 1,439,028, compared with 1,266,501 for the year 1906-7.

The aggregate amount of goods and minerals carried by rail during the year was 133,854 tons, as against 124,234 tons for the previous year.

The railway receipts for the year amounted to £106,202, and the expenditure to £71,013, exclusive of the interest paid on the railway loans which was £22,624, and the contributions to the sinking funds, which aggregated £11,413.

RAILWAY EXTENSIONS.

On the 2nd March, 1908, the Legislative Council passed a resolution approving the extension of the railway system from San Fernando to Siparia, a distance of 13½ miles, and from Tabaquite to Poole, a distance of 16 miles, which had been recommended by a special committee in 1906. The first extension, which will pass through cultivated lands throughout nearly its whole course, has been roughly estimated on the basis of the general cost of railway construction as hitherto carried out in the Colony at £122,719, and will serve a population of about 14,000 persons, with a cultivated area of over 14,100 acres. The second has been estimated at £77,280, and will serve a population of about 6,500 persons with a cultivated area of about 10,500 acres, which is, however, rapidly extending. The loan to be raised is estimated at £225,000.

The preliminary surveys are now proceeding.

IMMIGRATION.

The number of arrivals in the colony during the year was 17,672 and the departures 14,668, giving an increase to the population by immigration of 3,004.

The number of East Indians brought to the colony under indenture was 1,860, whilst the number who returned to India was 752. The amount deposited by the latter in the Colonial Treasury for transmission to India was £13,578 11s. 10½*d.*, and in addition they consigned £306 to the care of the Surgeon-Superintendent in charge of the ship in which they sailed. The amount of remittances to India by immigrants, exclusive of the money taken back by immigrants returning to India, was £3,227 0s. 2*d.* The amount deposited by East Indians in the Government Savings Bank during the year 1907 was £74,822 8s. 7*d.* and the total balance to their credit on the 31st December, 1907, was £111,675 6s. 11½*d.*; the total number of East Indian depositors for the year having been 6,361.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure on public works for the year from general revenue was £136,339, as compared with £166,522 during the previous year; and in addition £21,931 was expended from loan funds on the special road scheme that has been in the course of execution during the last six years.

The public buildings throughout the colony were maintained at a cost of £11,886.

The maintenance of the main roads cost £52,257, and the local roads £36,628; £30,593 of the latter amount having been allotted for the maintenance of the local roads in charge of the various Local Road Boards, of which there are 10.

The expenditure on roads and bridges extraordinary, exclusive of the £21,931 from loan funds referred to above, amounted to £8,217.

CHANGES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

Sir Gilbert T. Carter, K.C.M.G., administered the Government from 8th May to 4th November, 1907, during the absence in England of Sir H. M. Jackson, G.C.M.G.

The following appointments were made during the year:—

Mr. S. W. Kuaggs to be Colonial Secretary—30th October, 1907.

Dr. H. L. Clare to be Surgeon-General—30th August, 1907.

Mr. A. G. Bell to be Director of Public Works—23rd December, 1907.

FLOATING DOCK.

A floating graving dock, owned by the Trinidad Dock and Engineering Company, Limited, was formally opened on the 15th August, 1907. The dock is located in the sheltered bay of Chaguaramas, with every facility for the easy handling of vessels. It is 365 feet in length, and 56 feet beam (which can be increased to 65 feet) and is capable of lifting vessels weighing up to 4,000 tons. All kinds of ship repairs (hull and machinery) are also undertaken by the company.

OPENINGS FOR INVESTMENT OF CAPITAL

Of the industries which offer inducements to investors of capital, in Trinidad and Tobago, the cultivation of cocoa is perhaps the most attractive, and profitable investments are to be secured either in

- (a.) the formation of an estate,
- (b.) the purchase of an established estate, or
- (c.) the investment of capital on the security of an established estate.

Sound investments for capital can usually be obtained for sums under \$1,000 (£208 6s. 8d.) at 10 per cent.; from \$1,000 up to \$6,000 (£1,250) at 8 per cent.; and over \$6,000 at 6 or 7 per cent.

The prospects of the banana and rubber cultivations, which have been taken up in recent years, are very encouraging.

COTTON.

The cultivation of cotton is forming an important minor industry in Tobago, and a cotton gin, operated by a steam engine, has been erected by the Government, in the chief town, Scarborough.

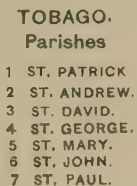
Appended hereto is a small sketch map of the colony.

R. G. BUSHE,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

1st October, 1908.

SCALE

0 5 10 15 20 MILES

A horizontal scale bar with markings at 0, 5, 10, 15, and 20 miles. The bar is divided into four equal segments by vertical tick marks at each number. The word "MILES" is at the right end of the bar.

Steamer Route...	_____
Coastal Steamer Route...	_____
Railways.....	_____+_____
Railway Extensions....	_____Sta._____
Principal Roads.....	_____

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
553	St. Lucia	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906-1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar	"
564	Ashanti	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907-1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907
567	Seychelles	"
568	Bermuda	"
569	Weihaiwei	"
570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta	1907-1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907-1908
575	Bahamas	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907-1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907
579	St. Lucia	"
580	Fiji	"
581	Mauritius	"
582	Straits Settlements	"
583	Southern Nigeria	"
584	Imperial Institute	1906-1907
585	Barbados	1907-1908
586	Somaliland Protectorate	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
49	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c. ...	Cotton cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria ...	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa ...	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907-8.
54	Newfoundland ...	Governor's visit to Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony ...	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands ...	Salt Industry.

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1908.

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No. 541.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1906.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 495.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1907.



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No. 541.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 495.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,

Jamaica,

4th September, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1906, with the Commissioner's Report thereon for the same period.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVIER,

Governor.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1906.

FINANCES.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.	Deficit.
	£	£	£	£
1891 ...	7,354	7,996	—	642
1892 ...	7,836	7,596	240	—
1893 ...	7,434	7,816	—	382
1894 ...	8,840	7,459	1,381	—
1895 ...	7,312	7,547	—	235
1896 ...	9,707	7,383	2,324	—
1897 ...	9,477	8,384	1,093	—
1898 ...	7,232	8,061	—	829
1899 ...	8,033	7,644	389	—
1900 ...	9,190	8,053	1,137	—
1901 ...	9,030	7,989	1,041	—
1902 ...	8,693	8,006	687	—
1903 ...	8,678	8,910	—	232
1904 ...	6,466	8,001	—	1,535
1905 ...	6,243	7,279	—	1,036
1906 ...	6,809	7,080	—	271

REVENUE.

Comparative Statement for the Period 1900–1906.

Head.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	Average Annual Revenue 1900–04.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Import Duties ...	3,280	3,557	3,825	3,684	3,129	3,495	2,940	3,516
Royalty on Salt ...	2,684	2,518	2,416	2,635	1,466	2,334	1,402	1,523
Port Dues ...	824	775	752	832	495	736	478	549
Licences and Internal Revenue.	247	223	248	261	303	256	260	290
Payment for Specific Services.	223	182	146	197	99	169	125	112
Post Office ...	1,283	869	498	361	311	663	434	406
Revenue from Government Property.	180	475	222	127	93	219	93	134
Interest ...	260	127	269	254	355	253	245	266
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	19	54	72	15	27	36	16	15
Imperial Grant (Mail Service).	250	250	250	312	188	250	250	—
Total ...	9,190	9,030	8,693	8,678	6,466	8,411	6,243	6,809

EXPENDITURE.

Comparative Statement for the Period 1900-1906.

Head.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	Average Annual Expenditure 1900-04.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Pensions	400	418	459	479	662	483	491	541
Commissioner's Department.	2,347	2,197	2,286	2,249	2,111	2,223	2,044	2,105
Judicial	553	531	520	538	518	532	543	536
Police and Prisons ...	668	660	677	671	668	669	640	677
Medical	544	467	388	545	556	500	564	611
Paupers	308	339	329	341	328	329	351	357
Education	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600
Registration and Vaccination.	24	22	20	24	27	225	24	35
Public Market	21	21	21	21	21	25	21	21
Miscellaneous	354	443	554	604	535	498	490	415
Post Office	749	533	530	540	572	585	539	259
Lighthouse, Department	238	280	253	258	245	255	246	235
Public Works Department.	397	331	321	314	291	331	299	409
Public Works, Recurrent	746	770	490	543	528	615	301	264
Public Works, Extraordinary.	40	371	608	1,169	338	505	53	—
Cost of Remittances ...	—	—	—	14	2	3	73	15
Drawbacks and Refunds	42	11	—	—	—	11	—	—
Totals	8,053	7,989	8,106	8,910	8,002	8,192	7,279	7,080

From the above tabulated statements it will be seen that the revenue, estimated at £7,770, amounted to only £6,810, a difference of £960, which serious falling off was mainly due to the small shipments of salt, resulting in a loss of £677 and £176 in the royalty on salt and port dues respectively. Had it not been for "The Customs Tariff Ordinance 1905" realising, in spite of the general depression in the staple industry of the Dependency, all that was expected of it, the deficit would have been largely increased.

The approved estimate of expenditure was £7,681, but by dint of rigorous economy in all departments, the actual amount disbursed was only £7,080, a saving of £601 on the estimates, and £1,112 less than the average annual expenditure for the five years ended 1904.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

Liabilities.			Assets.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Deposits	51	3 8	Cash—		
Balt Pond Fund ...	197	18 11	In Colonial Chest	475	17 0
Money Orders ...	552	7 6	Crown Agents ...	325	4 1
Board of Education ...	296	2 4	New York Agents	32	6 3
Savings Bank ...	2,044	15 0	Jamaica Treasury	1	14 9
	3,142	7 5	Remittances maturing	312	10 0
			" Savings Bank.	100	0 0
			Import Bonds ...	164	1 9
			Advances recoverable	151	10 4
			Invested Funds—		
	7,308	16 6	Government ...	7,056	5 4
			Savings Bank ...	1,670	4 5
			Board of Education	161	10 0
	10,451	3 11		10,451	3 11

GOVERNMENT FUNDS INVESTED.

Year.			Amount.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
1894	2,000	0 0	1901	7,900	0 0
1895	2,000	0 0	1902	7,947	11 4
1896	4,500	0 0	1903	8,947	11 4
1897	5,500	0 0	1904	7,500	11 4
1898	5,500	0 0	1905	7,028	1 4
1899	5,500	0 0	1906	7,056	5 4
1900	5,900	0 0			

Of these surplus funds the sum of £7,056 5s. 4d. was, on the 1st January of the present year, invested in :—

					Amount.
					£ s. d.
(1) Government	Queensland Stock	...	...	...	1,000 0 0
(2) "	Victoria Stock	...	...	...	1,500 0 0
(3) "	South Australia Debentures	...	...	...	1,000 0 0
(4) "	Jamaica Stock	...	...	...	400 0 0
(5) "	Jamaica Savings Bank	...	...	...	1,156 5 4
(6) "	Gold Coast Stock	...	...	...	896 2 4
(7) "	Sierra Leone Stock	...	...	...	943 3 6
(8) "	Lagos Stock	...	...	...	160 14 2
Total	...	...	...	...	£7,056 5 4

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total imports during the year 1906 were valued at £27,572 and the total exports at £24,940, compared with the average of £29,549 and £32,119, respectively, for the five years 1900-1904, and as against £28,230 and £23,898 in 1905. The exports of salt fell in value even below that of 1905, the lowest on record, being £14,275, as compared with £14,604 of the previous year. The export of fibre, the most important subsidiary industry, fell from £5,803 to £5,605.

IMPORTS.

Comparative Statement for the Period 1900-1906.

Year.	From United Kingdom.	From British Colonies.	From Foreign Countries.	Total Value.
	£	£	£	£
1900	3,385	3,940	22,239	29,564
1901	3,111	4,092	23,614	30,817
1902	3,463	5,793	23,035	32,291
1903	3,948	6,435	20,573	30,956
1904	3,226	4,154	16,740	24,120
Annual Average 1900-1904 ...	3,427	4,883	21,239	29,549
1905	5,490	3,975	18,765	28,230
1906	3,958	5,727	17,887	27,572

EXPORTS.

Comparative Statement for the Period 1900-1906.

Year.	To United Kingdom.	To British Colonies.	To Foreign Countries.	Total Value.
	£	£	£	£
1900	291	7,384	25,715	33,390
1901	—	12,290	27,461	39,751
1902	2,307	5,637	24,010	31,955
1903	1,774	3,349	26,755	31,878
1904	132	2,975	20,913	24,020
Annual Average 1900-1904 ...	901	6,327	24,971	32,199
1905	225	3,866	19,807	23,898
1906	780	5,297	18,863	24,940

Classified, the exports were comprised of :—

—		1905.		1906.	
Conchs—	£	£	£	£	
To Foreign Countries ...	—	656	—	509	
Turtle Shell—					
To United Kingdom ...	52		—		
To British Colonies ...	439		1,768		
To Foreign Countries ...	42		—		
		533		1,768	
Salt—					
To British Colonies ...	3,152		3,302		
To Foreign Countries ...	11,452		10,973		
		14,604		14,275	
Sisal fibre—					
To United Kingdom ...	135		515		
To Foreign Countries ...	5,668		5,090		
		5,803		5,605	
Sponge—					
To United Kingdom ...	—		233		
To British Colonies ...	239		40		
To Foreign Countries ...	1,984		2,145		
		2,223		2,418	
Miscellaneous ...	—	79	—	365	
		23,898		24,940	

As the Dependency is passing through the most critical period in the history of its staple industry, the following tables may be of value and interest, as showing how low the exports of salt have fallen since the last average year, 1903 :—

Whither Exported.	1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.	
	Bushels.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.	Bushels.	Value.
Canada	175,266	£ 2,864	128,207	£ 2,341	133,115	£ 2,558	146,747	£ 2,503
St. Pierre	85,510	1,425	10,096	252	22,113	408	18,260	294
U.S. America ..	1,483,394	18,602	807,229	11,481	735,641	10,669	781,692	10,128
Miscellaneous ..	62,424	796	59,716	1,005	65,430	971	96,775	1,350
Total	1,806,694	23,677	1,005,248	15,079	961,289	14,604	1,043,474	14,275

SHIPPING.

The following table gives a comparative statement of the shipping cleared for the years 1905 and 1906 :—

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	155	10,390	32	46,149	187	56,539
United States ...	17	14,135	25	49,730	42	63,865
Others	56	2,052	36	55,788	92	57,880
Total 1906 ...	228	26,617	93	151,667	321	178,284
Total 1905 ...	193	24,064	93	141,731	186	165,795

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

The Commissioner, Mr. Douglas Young, having been promoted to the Administratorship of Dominica, left the Dependency on the 26th March. The Judge, Mr. G. P. St. Aubyn, administered the Government, and Mr. A. W. Harriott, Assistant Commissioner at Grand Turk, acted as Auditor, pending the arrival of Mr. Young's successor.

Mr. Frederick Henry Watkins, Companion of the Imperial Service Order, having been appointed Commissioner of the Turks and Caicos Islands, arrived in the Dependency and assumed the duties of his office on the 10th May.

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board during the year:—

- The Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, No. 1.
- The Appropriation Ordinance, No. 2, and
- The Court of Appeal Ordinance, No. 3.

By the last-named Ordinance the local Court of Appeal was abolished and appeals from the judgments of the Supreme Court were made to lie to the Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica.

EDUCATION.

In 1883 an Ordinance was passed to make it compulsory upon parents, as far as local circumstances permitted, to cause their children to attend the public elementary schools, but there was a provision that the compulsory clauses should not come into operation except by order of the Commissioner with the approval of the Governor of Jamaica. For eighteen years the Ordinance, so far as compulsory attendance was concerned, remained a dead letter, and in 1901 when the provisions were found unsuitable for the requirements of the Dependency, the present Education Ordinance was passed. The administration of education is vested in a Board consisting of the Commissioner with not more than seven or less than four other persons appointed annually. The Board meets twice a year for the despatch of general business and at any other time when necessary.

The sum of £600 is placed at the disposal, annually, of the Board for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Ordinance, but the details of the expenditure are left entirely to the Board.

The Commissioner appoints such schoolmasters as are necessary, who, although subject to the same discipline as the other public officers, are not entitled to receive pensions.

To encourage or compel attendance at the schools of the principal settlements, a school-rate is made payable to the Board by a parent in respect of each child of school age (the words "school age" means over six and under thirteen years of age) living within a mile and a half of a school, except the following requirements are satisfied:—

(1) That the child has been in regular attendance at a school approved by the Board.

(2) That the child has been prevented from attendance by sickness or other reasonable cause.

(3) That the child has received sufficient instruction by private tuition.

(4) That the child has reached the age of ten years and has been granted a certificate by the Board of his ability to read and write and of a knowledge of elementary arithmetic.

All rates collected under this Ordinance are applied in such manner as to the Board seems fit.

The Bible is a daily class book in every school receiving aid, but no child may be excluded from such a school on account of his religious denomination.

A code of regulations was made for the Government schools in 1903. The rules deal with the school records and attendance book, sewing classes and pupil teachers, together with a schedule of graded instructions.

The pupil teachers, who are engaged for a course of four years, are examined annually in the examinations for pupil teachers held by the Education Department of Jamaica.

There is, at present, no course of training for teachers, locally, but this is a defect which will, it is hoped be soon remedied, for the question of obtaining qualified teachers has been one of peculiar difficulty. How successful the operation of the Ordinance in the compulsory districts has been, may be gathered from the following comparative table:—

District.	On Roll.		Average Attendance.	
	1901.	1906.	1901.	1906.
Grand Turk°	163	219	79	190
Salt Cay*	49	42	31	35
Cockburn Harbour°	100	121	68	100
Kew	74	102	49	63
Blue Hills	79	78	34	47
Lorimers	83	102	41	42
Bottle Creek	—	113	—	92

* Compulsory District.

There are several private schools within the Dependency, but the attendance at such schools, unless licensed by the Board, does not exempt the parent from the payment of the school-rate. There are 207 children in attendance at the private schools.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Throughout the Dependency serious crime is of rare occurrence, abusive language being the most frequent offence.

The following table gives a comparative statement of the criminal statistics of the Dependency for the years 1903 to 1906:—

	1903	1904	1905.	1906.
The number of offences reported to the Police.	143	134	128	160
The number of persons apprehended by the Police or summoned before the Magistrates.	143	129	128	160
The number of Summary Convictions:—				
1. For offences against the person ...	28	37	26	27
2. For prædial larceny	—	—	5	1
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	6	7	6	13
4. For other offences	96	53	63	93
The number of Convictions in the Superior Courts:—				
1. For offences against the person ...	—	—	—	2
2. For prædial larceny	—	—	—	—
3. For offences against property other than prædial larceny.	2	—	2	—
4. For other offences	—	—	—	—
The number of persons acquitted:—				
1. In the Superior Courts	—	—	—	5
2. In the Inferior Courts	11	31	21	24

VITAL STATISTICS.

The year 1906 was healthy, no epidemics or serious outbreaks of sickness having been reported. During the wet season cases of malaria, as is usual, occurred in the Caicos Islands.

The number of births and deaths was 190 and 107, being 40 per thousand and 20 per thousand of the population respectively.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Owing to the financial condition of the Dependency, no works of importance were undertaken, but the survey of the Caicos Islands was continued by Mr. E. G. Reid, the Colonial Surveyor, who has been engaged under a three years' agreement for that purpose. During the year, Mr. Reid was occupied in field work for six months, during which period about 100 lots near Kew and about 150 lots near Bottle Creek, in the North Caicos, were surveyed. It is to be hoped that this important work will be pressed vigorously and finished within a reasonable time.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

There is no internal postal, telegraph, or telephone service. There is frequent, but irregular, steamship communication with the United Kingdom and other countries. The only line which has any pretence to fixed date is the Imperial Direct West India Mail, the steamers of which call at Grand Turk on their way to Jamaica every other Wednesday, bringing mails and parcels post from Bristol. Unfortunately, there is not sufficient inducement offered to these steamers to touch on their return voyage. The voyage from Avonmouth occupies about 12 days, and freight is brought out by the "Port Kingston" every six weeks, at the rate of 25s. a ton. The subsidized steamer "Beta" from Halifax, Nova Scotia, calls about once a month both on her way to, and on her return from, Jamaica, and is the only means of steam communication from Jamaica. The subsidy paid is £120 a year.

Most of the mails to the United Kingdom are carried to New York by the steamers of the Clyde Line, which call here on their voyage to and from San Domingo, at intervals of about 14 days each way.

The revenue of the Post Office for the year 1906 was £406, made up of—

Receipts.

	£	£
Sales of Stamps	193	
Commission on Money Orders	37	
Commission on Postal Orders	3	
Sale of Stamps to Collectors	153	
Other receipts	20	
		406

Expenditure.

Office Expenses	34
Transit Charges	8
Mail Subsidy	217
	259

Net Revenue of Post Office ... £147

The estimated number of letters and postal matter beyond the seas dealt with by the local Post Office during the year 1906 may be seen from the following table:—

	United Kingdom		Other Places.		Total.
	From.	To.	From.	To.	
Letters	3,000	3,050	13,500	11,720	31,270
Post Cards	500	600	750	1,250	3,100
Newspapers	2,000	450	16,150	1,325	19,925
Book Packets	1,250	50	1,300	100	2,700
Parcels	219	62	209	51	541

Money orders to the value of £768 were issued during the year on the United Kingdom, and orders for £124 drawn in the United Kingdom paid in the Dependency. The money order transactions with other places abroad amounted to £731 issued and £141 paid in the Dependency, the majority of the transactions being with Jamaica.

The cable of the Direct West India Cable Company between Halifax, Bermuda, and Jamaica, is connected with Grand Turk. The Company supplies a news bulletin daily, in respect of which an annual grant of £120 is made. The rates chargeable under the Cable Company's Ordinance 1898, are as follows:—

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
To Jamaica	1	0	a word.
„ Bermuda	1	6	„
„ Halifax	2	0	„
„ United Kingdom ...	3	0	„

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The following readings and statistics were from observations taken at the United States Weather Bureau Station at Grand Turk, latitude 21° 21' N., longitude 71° 7' W., at a height above mean sea level of 11·3 feet.

Rain fell on 149 days during the year, and measured 28·36 inches, compared with—

41·97	inches	in	1905
43·79	„		1904
36·63	„		1903
27·45	„		1902
29·52	„		1901
23·59	„		1900

and an average rainfall of 24·61 for the previous seven years, 1893-99. The heaviest rain on any one day during the year was 3·70 inches on the 5th November, while the wettest months were March, June, and November, with 4·24, 3·94 and

9·00 inches respectively. It is intended to have the rainfall recorded in other places as soon as possible.

The coolest and hottest months were December and August, with mean readings of 74·4 and 83·8 respectively, while the mean temperature for the year was 79·6.

FOREIGN CONSULS.

United States of America:—J. A. Howells, Consul; W. S. Jones, Vice-Consul.

France:—W. S. Jones, Consular Agent.

Denmark:—H. M. Murphy, Consul.

Dominican Republic:—W. A. Manuel, Consul.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The general condition of the Dependency still continues to be one of depression and to cause the gravest anxiety for the future of the staple industry of these islands. Owing to the abnormally wet seasons, the two previous years had been classed among the worst ever experienced in their history, and this disastrous state of things continued until the middle of the past year, when the dry weather allowed average rakings to be made. The inability on the part of the salt pond owners during the two years and a half to meet the demand, had in the meantime caused the purchasers at the principal markets to seek fresh sources of supply, especially in the Trapani district of Sicily, so that at the end of the year when, at last, abundant salt was ready for shipment, little or no demand for local salt at profitable prices existed. How serious the situation is, especially for Grand Turk, may be gathered from the following tabulated statement, showing the export value and the number of bushels of salt shipped during the past four years:—

Year.	Grand Turk.	Salt Cay.	Cockburn Harbour.	Total.	Value.
	Average export 700,000 bushels.	Average export 400,000 bushels.	Average export 700,000 bushels.	Average export 1,800,000 bushels.	
1903	694,609	418,480	693,605	1,806,694	£ 23,678
1904	193,305	210,566	601,477	1,005,248	15,079
1905	110,475	361,412	489,412	961,299	14,604
1906	104,648	369,725	569,101	1,043,474	14,276

From the above statement it will be seen that Grand Turk has in three years of disaster, 1904-6, shipped less than two-thirds of what should be its average export.

In addition to the drawbacks of the heavy rains in 1904 and 1905 and the low prices at present obtainable, the high protective duty, about 6 cents or three pence per bushel, on foreign salt imported into the United States, makes it a matter of impossibility for the majority of salt pond owners to retrieve their losses. New districts in the United States by the development of railways are gradually being opened up for the utilization of salt lakes and mines, and this increased production of domestic salt is confining, more and more, the use of imported salt to the packing factories situated in close proximity to the seaboard of the Atlantic. Efforts to extend our trade with Canada, would, I am disposed to believe, not be without result, but united effort and enterprise are necessary, and both, I am sorry to say, are not forthcoming to any large extent at present in this Dependency. Under even the most favourable circumstances, the profits of the salt industry are small and uncertain, and the words of the report for 1899 of one of my predecessors, now Sir H. M. Jackson, deserve to be quoted as being as true with regard to the conditions now existing as they were at the time when written. "The salt industry is, nevertheless, perhaps the most uncertain that could be found, as a single day's rain in the raking season will reduce the crop by one fourth, and yet, as it has hitherto been the only possible industry in these islands, the merchants have gone struggling on, barely keeping their heads above water in an average year, and in a good year tormented with the prospect that it may be followed by a 'dripping season' which will swallow up all their hardly-earned profits. It is not too much to say that but for the 'store' which is the necessary adjunct of every salt merchant's business here, no salt raker could pay his way, and those among them who have attained to even the most modest competence have done so by what they have taken across the counter, not by what they have gathered from their ponds."

The salt ponds are divided into too many interests, and the small owners and even some of the large proprietors are now unable to bear the strain of the last three years.

Although, owing to its size, the introduction of subsidiary industries into Grand Turk is almost impossible, there are several sources of export from the Caicos Islands to supplement the production of salt, as may be seen from the following table:—

*Comparative Statement of the value of the Principal Exports
other than Salt from the Dependency, 1887-1906.*

Year.	Sisal Fibre.	Sponge.	Turtle Shell.	Dried Fish. Conchs.
	£	£	£	£
1887	—	282	56	—
1888	—	287	230	92
1889	—	249	400	—
1890	50	181	30	78
1891	11	1,250	37	41
1892	25	940	77	—
1893	—	618	176	—
1894	420	218	62	44
1895	620	552	150	69
1896	1,047	957	230	6
1897	2,539	4,484	276	—
1898	2,902	982	799	—
1899	7,494	2,004	823	111
1900	5,081	3,951	652	190
1901	6,551	9,277	937	186
1902	7,101	1,961	547	313
1903	6,488	1,253	43	268
1904	6,887	1,414	151	434
1905	5,803	2,223	533	656
1906	5,605	2,418	1,768	509

As will be seen, by far the most important of these industries is that of sisal fibre, which is of comparatively recent introduction into the Dependency. Capt. (now Sir H. M.) Jackson was the first Commissioner to direct practical attention to the possibilities of this plant, for he sent on to Kew specimens of the Pita found in the Caicos, which were identified as the sisal of commerce. The seedlings of the original plants are said to have been brought from Crooked Island in the Bahamas to the Caicos Islands by Mr. Henshall Stubbs about the middle of the last century, but it was not seriously cultivated for export purposes until 1890, when two companies at West Caicos and East Caicos were formed and registered under the Trading Companies Ordinance. Despite the inevitable initial discouragements and difficulties, these companies have struggled on and have proved the practical salvation of the Caicos Islands. Prior to the commencement of the cultivation of fibre, the chief occupations of the people had been wrecking and primitive cultivation of ground provisions. The erection of the Grand Turk Lighthouse had deprived them in a large measure of their chief source of livelihood, and one of my predecessors had quaintly to lament, in enumerating the disasters of the year, that there had been only three wrecks. As the soil in the Caicos at the best is shallow in the extreme, the crops in the frequent seasons of drought were absolute failures, so that the Government had almost yearly to send relief in the form of

food to the half starving people dependent, as has been said, upon crops which, in most favourable years, could, with difficulty, satisfy their wants. Coming at an opportune time, the fibre industry gave steady employment and established habits of industry in place of precarious and demoralizing conditions of work to the people, who were rapidly relapsing into semi-savagery. At the present moment 250 to 300 persons are regularly engaged in the fibre cultivation, and in addition to the two pioneer companies already mentioned, several persons belonging to the Dependency have commenced planting fibre, and are increasing the area of cultivation as quickly as their limited capital will allow. A rough estimate as follows may be given of the land now planted in sisal:—

East Caicos	...	...	Acres	2,000
West Caicos	...	...	„	1,000
Bellevue, North Caicos	...	...	„	150
Haulover, Grand Caicos	...	...	„	50
				3,200

At East Caicos 1,000 acres more are to be planted in the near future, while there will still remain about 3,000 acres for future development. In West Caicos there are about 4,000 acres belonging to the Company suitable for sisal, and 600 acres of Crown Lands are also to be leased. At Bellevue and Haulover there are 1,500 and several thousand acres respectively. In the Turks Islands, the recent unfortunate experience in the salt industry has clearly indicated the importance of introducing fibre to afford, during wet seasons, employment to the labourers and prevent their wholesale emigration, and two leases for Crown Lands of 430 and 350 acres in Grand Turk and Salt Cay, respectively, have been signed during the past year. These leases, which are for 21 years, with the option of renewal for a further term of 21 years, stipulate that the lessees shall within three years commence the cultivation of the land, and within five years have at least so many acres under cultivation as are approved by the Government. In the Caicos Islands there are thousands of acres suitable for sisal cultivation, which, being surveyed, can be either sold or leased on conditions similar to those already stated.

Sponge gathering as an industry of commercial importance is also of recent date. At present, there are three sponging establishments in the Caicos Islands; at Cockburn Harbour, Dellis Cay, and Five Cays, where sponges are purchased, cured, assorted, baled, and shipped. The gathering of the sponges is carried on by more than 50 sloops belonging principally to Blue Hills or Providenciales, each of which employs three to nine men according to the number of boats carried. The best

months for sponging are April, May, September, November, and December. After being cured, the sponges, when carefully graded, are pressed in bales, averaging 50lb. in weight, and exported. The sponges are bought locally in 2 strands of 15 pieces each, the total weight being from 1½ to 2lb. on an average. Although inferior to those imported from the Mediterranean, these sponges find ready sale at fairly remunerative prices at the local establishments, and in the United States bring—

Grade.	Local Prices.	Prices in New York.
	cents	cents.
Sheep's Wool	50-125	70-175
Reef (local)	20-25	75-120
Yellow and Hard Hea ^l ...	11-15	30-40
Velvet	10-12	40
Grass	10-12	20-40

Turtling is carried on for the sake of the shell of the Hawksbill, and, owing to the lack of local enterprise and knowledge, is largely in the hands of the Bahama schooners, which come in large numbers into these waters during the season. Legislation is necessary for establishing a close season, or else the turtle will soon be rarely seen, owing to its shy habits and the modern ingenious contrivances for ensnaring it, which, in sporting parlance, leave the turtle, when once seen, no off-chance of escape.

Conchs are a favourite article of diet among all classes in these Islands, and if properly dressed can be made exceedingly palatable. When dried they are exported principally to Hayti, where they find a ready sale. Occasionally those engaged in the trade have the good fortune to find pink pearls, for which high prices are obtained.

The bat manure caves at East Caicos and Conch Bar, in the Grand Caicos, have long since been exhausted.

Although the immediate outlook is gloomy in the extreme, it is to be hoped that the clouds will soon lift and that all classes of the Dependency who have met the recent adverse years with grit, patience, and fortitude, will once more experience what they deserve—a long period of prosperity.

F. H. WATKINS,
Commissioner of the
Turks and Caicos Islands.

* * A Report upon the Sisal Industry of the Caicos Islands is being published separately; Colonial Reports (Miscellaneous) No. 43 [Cd. 3766].

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	
511	Sierra Leone	1905
512	Southern Nigeria	"
513	Basutoland	1905-1906
514	British Guiana	"
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905-1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"
524	Jamaica	1905-1906
525	Uganda	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906-1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	"
535	Malta	1906-1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906-1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
539	Leeward Islands	"
540	Straits Settlements	1906

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis...	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904-5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate	Report on Kenia Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1905-6.

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No. 578.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 541.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1908.



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1908.

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No. 578.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 541.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

King's House,
Jamaica,
28th August, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the Blue Book of the Turks and Caicos Islands for the year 1907, with the Commissioner's Report thereon for the same period.

I have, &c.,

SYDNEY OLIVIER,
Governor.

The Right Honourable,
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON BLUE BOOK FOR 1907. FINANCIAL.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

From the following statements it will be seen that the revenue for 1907, which was estimated at £7,715, actually amounted to £7,391, a difference of £324, mainly attributable to the reduction during the year in the statutory value of salt exported from $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $2d.$ per bushel. This was, however, an improvement of £582 upon the amount of revenue collected in the previous year.

The approved estimate of expenditure was £7,651, but the actual expenditure, owing to certain reductions in the establishment, amounted to only £7,119, a saving of £532. Altogether there was a surplus of £272, the first since 1902.

Finances.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1903 ...	£8,678	... £8,910
1904 ...	6,466	... 8,001
1905 ...	6,243	... 7,279
1906 ...	6,809	... 7,080
1907 ...	7,391	... 7,119

Revenue.

Head.	1906.	1907.
Import Duties	£3,516	£3,660
Royalty on Salt	1,523	1,832
Port Dues	549	684
Licences and Internal Revenue	290	227
Payments for Specific Services	112	177
Post Office	406	341
Revenue from Government Property	134	217
Interest	266	242
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	15	11
	£6,809	£7,391

Expenditure.

Head.	1906.	1907.
Pensions	£541	£658
Commissioner's Department	2,105	1,979
Judicial Department ...	536	539
Police and Prisons ...	677	679
Medical	611	585
Paupers	357	281
Education	600	600
Registration and Vaccina- tion	35	18
Public Market	21	21
Miscellaneous	415	428
Post Office	259	158
Lighthouse Department ...	235	248
Public Works Department	409	399
Public Works Recurrent...	264	444
Public Works Extra- ordinary	—	50
Cost of Remittances ...	15	32
	<u>£7,080</u>	<u>£7,119</u>

Assets and Liabilities.

Assets.			Liabilities.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Cash—			Deposits	66	4 6
In Colonial Chest ...	861	0 11	Salt Pond Fund ...	248	15 5
Crown Agents ...	22	1 3	Board of Education	278	3 2
New York Agent ...	55	10 9	Money Orders ...	392	14 8
Jamaica Treasury ...	278	19 7	Savings Bank ...	2,313	14 11
Remittances maturing	102	8 0			
Import Bonds	86	9 9		3,299	12 8
Advances recoverable...	10	13 3			
Investment Funds—					
Government Fund ...	7,085	3 4			
" Savings	104	0 0			
" Bank &c.					
Savings Bank Fund...	2,112	9 11			
Board of Education	165	10 6	Balance of Assets ...	7,580	14 7
	<u>10,880</u>	<u>7 3</u>		<u>10,880</u>	<u>7 3</u>

PUBLIC DEBT.

There is no Public Debt, but surplus funds amounting to £7,085 invested in Colonial securities.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The total imports during the year 1907 were valued at £27,660 and the total exports at £23,817, compared with the average of £29,283 and £30,301, respectively, for the five years 1901-1905, and as against £27,572 and £24,940 in 1906. The exports of salt, in spite of the low prices obtained throughout the year, showed a welcome increase from £14,275 in 1906 to £16,557 during the year under review. The prolonged drought, although favourable to salt raking, was disastrous to the sisal crop, which fell in value from £5,602 to £3,107.

Year.	<i>Imports.</i>		<i>Exports.</i>	
	Value.		Value.	
1903	...	£30,956	...	£31,878
1904	...	24,120	...	24,020
1905	...	28,230	...	23,898
1906	...	27,572	...	24,940
1907	...	27,660	...	23,817

Articles of Export.

	Value.			
Conchs	...	...	...	£294
Turtle Shell	...	...	...	430
Sisal	...	...	...	3,107
Salt	...	...	...	16,557
Sponge	...	...	...	3,045
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	384

Shipping.

Comparative statement for the period 1903-1907:—

Year.	Total Tonnage.		
1903	...	...	335,442
1904	...	...	275,132
1905	...	...	332,254
1906	...	...	357,960
1907	...	...	345,453

The following table gives a comparative statement of the shipping cleared for the years 1906 and 1907:—

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British	167	16,259	26	43,719	193	59,978
United States	16	13,785	24	44,452	40	58,237
Others	72	1,904	34	53,215	106	55,119
Total 1907	255	31,948	84	141,386	339	173,334
Total 1906	228	26,617	93	151,667	321	178,284

LEGISLATION.

The following were the chief Ordinances passed by the Legislative Board:—

Salt Exporters Relief Ordinances, No. 4 and No. 6, to afford relief to the exporters of salt in the depressed condition of the industry.

Statute Law Revision Ordinance, No. 5, with a view to the preparation of an edition of the local laws.

Court of Appeal Ordinance, No. 9, allowing appeals from the Supreme Court to the Appeal Court of Jamaica.

The Wild Birds Protection and Turtle and Sponge Ordinances, Nos. 11, 12, and 13, to establish close seasons for wild birds and turtles, and to protect, otherwise, the sponge and turtle industries.

EDUCATION.

During the year the Board of Education passed supplementary regulations by which no person may be appointed to the charge of a public school except he holds a certificate of efficiency from the Board, which may grant such certificates to teachers passing a satisfactory examination according to an approved schedule. So that hardship should not be inflicted on teachers already in charge of schools, certificates were awarded to those who had been in office for at least three years. In lieu of the system of appointing year by year a member of the Board or some qualified person to conduct the examination of the primary schools, the Commissioner was given the power to appoint an Inspector of Schools, who, subject to the direction of the Board, would have the supervision of all public and private schools, and hold an examination of each public school and of candidates for certificates of efficiency at least once a year. In accordance with this rule, Mr. H. H. Hutchings, who had for many years previously held the annual examination of the schools and had evinced warm interest in elementary education generally, was appointed first Inspector of Schools.

It is to be hoped that, by these regulations, the difficulty so often experienced of obtaining qualified teachers locally will be removed, and that the appointment of a permanent inspector will ensure more systematic and efficient work throughout the schools.

The average attendance in the salt settlements, all of which are compulsory districts under the Ordinance, was extremely satisfactory, but the severe drought had an appreciable effect

upon the regular and punctual attendance of the children throughout the Caicos Islands, notably at Kew. The total average attendance at the public schools of the Dependency was 547.

SAVINGS BANK, 1907.

	£	s.	d.
Amount of Deposits	1,067	11	6
Amount of Withdrawals	800	9	2
Total Amount at Credit of Depositors	2,264	14	5
Amount of Invested Funds	2,250	0	3
Revenue (Interest on Investments)	48	7	6
Expenditure (Interest to Depositors)	40	7	11
Number of Depositors—238.			

CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

Offences reported to the Police	204
Persons apprehended or summoned before the Magistrates	204

Number of Summary Convictions.

1. Offences against the person	34
2. Predial Larceny	13
3. Offences against property other than Predial Larceny	3
4. Other offences	107

Convictions in the Superior Court.

1. Offences against the person	1
2. Predial Larceny	—
3. Offences against property other than Predial Larceny	1
4. Other offences	—

Number of Persons Acquitted.

1. In the Superior Court	—
2. In the Inferior Courts	44

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, 1907.

The Dependency is to be congratulated on a continued absence of serious crime. A slight increase in the number of convictions for larceny was probably due to the straitened circumstances of the people in consequence of the severe drought.

VITAL STATISTICS.

There is nothing to call for notice during the year, as no serious epidemic or outbreak of sickness was reported. The number of births and deaths was 238 and 122, being 45 and 23 per thousand of the population, respectively, while 26 marriages took place. The highest birth-rate was in the Caicos Islands, being 62 per thousand, while the lowest death-rate was at Salt Cay, being 18 per thousand.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

Although no internal postal, telegraph, or telephone service exists, there is frequent, but irregular, steamship communication with the United Kingdom and other countries. The only line which has any pretence to fixed dates is the Imperial Direct West India Mail, the steamers of which touch at Grand Turk on their way to Jamaica every other Wednesday, bringing mails and parcel post from Bristol. Unfortunately, there is not sufficient inducement offered to these steamers to call on their return voyage. The voyage from Avonmouth occupies about 12 days, and freight is brought out by the "Port Kingston" every six weeks, at the rate of 25s. a ton. A subsidized steamer of the Pickford and Black Line from Halifax, Nova Scotia, calls about once a month both on her way to and from Jamaica, and is the only means of steam communication from Jamaica. The subsidy paid is £120 a year.

Most of the mails to the United Kingdom are carried to New York by the steamers of the Clyde Line, which call here on their voyage to and from San Domingo, at intervals of about 14 days each way.

The revenue and expenditure of the Post Office for the year 1906 were £341 and £158, respectively, made up of--

Receipts.

	£	£
Sales of Stamps	228	
Commission on Money Orders ...	41	
Commission on Postal Orders ...	4	
Other receipts	8	
	—	341

Expenditure.

Office expenses	18	
Conveyance of mails beyond the Colony	140	
	—	158

Net Revenue of Post Office ... £183

The rates of postage are as follows:—

Letters to the United Kingdom, to all British Colonies generally, and to Egypt	1d. per ounce.
To Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Hayti, Peru, Persia, Russia	2½d. half ounce.
To other countries	2½d. per ounce.
For every additional ounce	1½d.
Post Cards	1d. each.
Parcels to the United Kingdom:—	
Under 3 lbs.	1s.
From 3 lbs. to 7 lbs.	2s.
From 7 lbs. to 11 lbs.	3s.
Parcels to Jamaica, per lb.	6d.
„ to Canada, per lb.	10d.
„ to Bermuda, per lb.	6d.
„ to the United States	6d.

The cable of the Direct West India Cable Company between Halifax, Bermuda, and Jamaica, is connected with Grand Turk. The company supplies a news bulletin daily in respect of which an annual grant of £120 is made. The rates chargeable under the Cable Company's Ordinance, 1898, are as follows:—

	s.	d.	
To Jamaica	1	0	a word.
„ Bermuda	1	6	„
„ Halifax	2	0	„
„ United Kingdom	3	0	„

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The following readings and statistics were from observations taken at the United States Weather Bureau Station in Grand Turk, latitude 21° 21' N., longitude 71° 7' W., at a height above mean sea level of 11·3 feet.

The rainfall in 1907 measured 28·49 inches, compared with—

28·36	inches in	1906
41·97	„	1905
43·79	„	1904
36·63	„	1903
27·75	„	1902

The heaviest rain for any one day was 2·75 inches on the 9th November, while the wettest months were October, November, and January, with 7·21, 5·63, and 2·77 inches, respectively.

The coolest and hottest months were January and July, with mean readings of 74·2 and 83·8, respectively, while the mean temperature for the year was 79·2 and the mean pressure 30·044. The lowest temperature was registered on the 25th March at 61°, while the hottest point, 92°, was reached on the 23rd July.

Observations showed that the prevailing wind on the following number of days blew from:—

N.	...	...	...	...	10 days
N.E.	...	...	...	...	64 „
E.	...	...	...	...	153 „
S.E.	...	...	...	...	112 „
S.	...	...	...	...	11 „
S.W.	...	...	...	...	7 „
W.	...	...	...	...	4 „
N.W.	...	...	...	...	4 „

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. Alexis Wynn's Harriott, Assistant Commissioner of Grand Turk, was transferred to the Assistant Commissionership of Salt Cay *vice* Dr. Hirst, promoted to the Commissionership of the Cayman Islands.

Mr. Lindsay Lea Smith, Clerk to the Commissioner, was appointed Accountant and Clerk *vice* Mr. E. C. Harriott, promoted to a post in Jamaica.

Mr. Hugh Houston Hutchings was appointed Clerk to the Commissioner in place of Mr. L. L. Smith, promoted, and was later on appointed to the Assistant Commissionership

of Grand Turk *vice* Mr. A. W. Harriott, transferred to Salt Cay, in conjunction with his other duties.

Mr. Frederick Eugene Todd was appointed to perform the duties of Harbour Master in conjunction with his other work in the police force.

PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year, although the financial situation would not allow of any important public works being initiated, the survey of the Caicos Islands was actively pressed on. More was done within the twelve months in the matter of grants than had been accomplished in the previous ten years. An agreement was entered into with the Acting Colonial Surveyor, Mr. E. G. Reid, which will assure the completion of the survey of the Caicos Islands within a reasonable and definite period, and it will then be possible, besides allotting plots to the small owners and restricting indiscriminate squatting with its resultant evils, to offer large tracts of land suitable for the growth of sisals at prices such as will induce persons with capital to engage in and extend the cultivation.

GENERAL.

The year under review opened under circumstances of more than ordinary sadness, for a terrible catastrophe overwhelmed the principal town of Jamaica, causing immense loss of life and property. The people of the Dependency, which is so closely connected with Jamaica, responded generously to an appeal for assistance to their neighbours in their hour of sorrow and need, and an amount of more than £170 was collected and forwarded as an expression of sympathy with the sufferers.

Unlike its immediate forerunners, the year, too, commenced under conditions most propitious for salt raking, and these conditions continued so favourable that one of the largest crops known was gathered. Unfortunately, owing to the trade having been diverted through the inability to meet the supply during the preceding years of disastrous rains, there proved to be little or no demand for the chief product of these islands, and, as months passed, it was painfully apparent that exceptional measures were imperative to aid the owners of salt ponds to meet the worst crisis the Depen-

dency had ever experienced. At a meeting of the Legislative Board, held in June, a resolution was unanimously adopted by the unofficial members praying that, in view of the very depressed and uncertain state of the staple industry, the Government be prepared to make a substantial reduction in the statutory value of salt on which the amount of royalty was based. At a subsequent interview a few days later, the unofficial members agreed in recommending that the statutory value, as paid by Section 5 of the Salt Ponds Ordinance, be reduced from $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ to $2d.$ per bushel, and that the loss in revenue, estimated at £1,100, likely to be caused by the proposed reduction, be met by adding a surtax of ten per cent. to all duties on imports, at the same time pledging themselves if, at the end of the year, the surtax of ten per cent. proved insufficient, to support and vote for an addition of twenty per cent. to the existing import duties. These urgent representations, together with the confidential reports of the principal owners of salt ponds throughout the Dependency which, in the large majority of instances, supported the proposals of the unofficial members, were transmitted without delay to the Governor, who sanctioned the suggested reduction of the statutory value until the end of the year, without the imposition of additional import duties. As there was, unfortunately, but little improvement in the situation, the Estimates for 1908 were so framed as to give effect for another year to the recommendations of the unofficial members, and ordinances were passed, one containing the reduction of the statutory value, the other making provision to meet the loss in revenue caused by that reduction. By retrenchment in the cost of administration it was not found necessary to take advantage of the pledge of the unofficial members to increase the import duties by twenty per cent. The owners of the salt ponds did not benefit to the full amount of the reduction, but they were enabled thereby to offer their produce at a rate which enabled them to compete with, and regain part of the trade from, their formidable competitors of the Mediterranean. At the end of the year endeavours were made to bring about an agreement with the dealers in the United States to enable the producers to dispose of their salt at remunerative prices, but difficulties supervened and the matter unfortunately remained in abeyance.

Although the principal industry was in so depressed and unsatisfactory a condition, it is satisfactory to note that, despite a temporary set-back occasioned by prolonged drought, the prospects of sisal are encouraging, high and remunerative prices for carefully graded fibre having, as a rule, been obtained. Much of the future success of this cultivation will depend upon the production of a fibre of good and uniform quality and upon careful and honest grading. Efforts must be made to produce sisal in sufficient quantity and reliable

quality to justify a separate name for the fibre exported from the Bahamas and this Dependency to distinguish it from that produced in Yucatan. At present, the price of the fibre exported from these islands is, in spite of its superiority, governed largely by that obtained for inferior qualities made in Mexico. The agreement made during the year, which will assure the completion of the survey of the Caicos Islands within a reasonable and definite period, will render it possible to offer large tracts of lands at prices such as should induce persons to engage in and extend the cultivation. Its future development is one of great interest, for it may be said without exaggeration that this industry has, in a large measure, been the material and educational salvation of the Caicos Islands.

The sponge and turtle industries will, it is hoped, after a term of close seasons and beneficent protection, be once more placed on a basis which will assure regular employment and reasonable profits.

The clouds which for several years past have overhung the Dependency have in a measure lifted, but several years more of careful financial administration will be required before the future can be regarded as free from anxiety.

F. H. WATKINS,

Commissioner of the
Turks and Caicos Islands.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
544	Barbados	1906-1907
545	Trinidad and Tobago	"
546	Grenada	"
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
549	Jamaica	1906-1907
550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906-1907
556	Basutoland	"
557	East Africa Protectorate	"
558	Uganda Protectorate	"
559	Swaziland	"
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	"
562	Falkland Islands	"
563	Gibraltar... ..	"
564	Ashanti	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907-1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907
567	Seychelles	"
568	Bermuda	"
569	Weihaiwei	"
570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta	1907-1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907-1908
575	Bahamas	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907-1908

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
44	East Africa Protectorate ...	Survey Department.
45	Do. do. ...	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey (1904-5);
47	Do. do. ...	Do. (1905-6).
48	Nyasaland Protectorate ...	Do.
49	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c. ...	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria ...	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa... ..	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907-08.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's Visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.

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1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 558.

UGANDA PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1906-7.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 525.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

June, 1908.



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No. 558.

UGANDA PROTECTORATE.

(For Report for 1905-6, *see* No. 525.)

THE GOVERNOR to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Uganda.

30th March, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Report on the Blue Book for the year 1906-7, prepared by Mr. George Wilson, C.B., Deputy Commissioner.

I have, &c.,

H. HESKETH BELL,
Governor.

The Right Honourable,

The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE UGANDA BLUE BOOK FOR 1906-7.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The estimated revenue for the year 1906-7 was £72,492; the actual revenue (exclusive of land sales) was £95,902 12s. 6d., showing an increase over the estimate of £23,410 12s. 6d., and increase of £19,147 3s. 3d. over the revenue of the preceding year.

The estimated expenditure for the year 1906-7 was £207,048; the actual expenditure was £191,502 15s. 7d., showing a saving of £15,545 4s. 5d., and an increase of £359 18s. 7d. over the expenditure of the preceding year.

Revenue.

The following is a comparative statement showing the actual revenue collected in 1906-7, as compared with the preceding year: —

—	Revenue of 1905-6.	Revenue of 1906-7.	Nett Increase.	Nett Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Customs	12,509 13 6	13,187 1 7	677 8 1	—
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue, not otherwise classified.	52,565 0 6	64,073 10 0	11,507 9 6	—
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services, and Reimbursements in Aid.	3,832 19 5	3,330 14 1	—	502 5 4
4. Government Vessels	755 15 2	314 19 6	—	440 15 8
5. Rents of Government Property	2,102 12 9	2,643 2 4	540 9 7	—
6. Interest	489 15 11	456 4 6	—	33 11 5
7. Miscellaneous Receipts	4,499 12 0	7,813 11 7	3,313 19 7	—
8. Land Sales	33 18 6	869 10 4	835 11 10	—
9. Sale of Government House (part).	—	2,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	—
10. Profit on Purchase of small Ivory.	—	2,084 8 11	2,084 8 11	—
Total	76,789 7 9	96,772 2 10	20,959 7 6	976 12 5

There has been a satisfactory increase in the figures under the principal heads; the most notable is that of £11,507 from licences, excise, and internal revenue. Towards this amount

Hut and Poll Taxes have contributed £8,702, Game Licences £1,632, and Road and Wharfage Dues £794.

The following is a statement of the revenue derived from Hut and Poll Taxes for the past four years:—

Provinces.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.	Increases in 1906-7 on previous year.	Decrease in 1906-7 on previous year.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Uganda Kingdom	19,580	21,491	25,659	27,878	2,219	—
Central Province ...	1,720	7,891	8,995	14,198	5,203	—
Western Province ...	2,753	5,678	9,222	11,137	1,915	—
Nile Province ...	765	1,045	1,822	1,186	—	686
Total ...	24,758	36,105	45,698	54,399	9,387	686

The increase of Fees for Game Licences simply indicates the growing popularity of this country for sport. On the other hand, that for Road and Wharfage Dues can be taken as an important criterion of the advance of trade. These dues amounted in 1906-7 to £4,017 18s. 6d., against £3,223 3s. for the previous year. Miscellaneous receipts include a fine inflicted upon the people of Ankole as part retribution for the murder of Acting Sub-Commissioner Galt in 1905.

The satisfactory receipts from Customs are dealt with separately under "II.—Trade, Agriculture, and Industries."

Rents of Government Property have shown a satisfactory advance.

The increase of £835, under Land Sales, is, for technical purposes, termed an "Extraordinary Item of Receipt." There are also to be included in this category £2,000 for part payment of the sale price of £3,000 for old Government House, and £2,084 for profit on purchase (for administrative reasons) of immature ivory, making a total, with the above Land Sale figures, of £4,920, which, deducted from the total receipts for the year, give the actual recurrent revenue an advance of £15,063 over that of the last preceding year. The decrease of £502 under Fees of Court or Office Payments for Specific Purposes and Reimbursements in Aid, is somewhat due to a reduction in fees for registration of native labour created by a legislative measure easing the conditions of inter-provincial traffic; it is also helped by the administration having discontinued the sale of fuel to the Uganda Railway steamers, in the interests of private enterprise which was forthcoming.

The revenue under "Government Vessels" shows a decrease of £440—the Protectorate steamer "Sir William Mackinnon" in the preceding year having shown abnormal receipts by acting as a substitute for a temporarily disabled railway steamer.

The Lake Albert traffic also failed to reach the earnings of the previous year. It must not be thought, however, that this means that the traffic with the Congo has diminished; on the contrary it is growing, but owing to the inadequate service of very small vessels and the consequent irregular running, the traffic has been deviated to land routes.

The following table shows the total revenue (inclusive of Land Sales) and expenditure for the last five years:—

	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue ...	41,158	51,474	59,707	76,789	96,772
Expenditure ...	203,733	186,800	173,039	191,142	191,502

(B.) IMPORTANT CHANGES IN TAXATION.

Two important changes in legislation affecting taxation have been made during the year:—

1. The Uganda Arms Ordinance, 1906, which is practically a consolidating enactment in regard to arms and ammunition, and,

2. The Uganda Game Ordinance, 1906, which supersedes previous Ordinances and regulations in regard to game.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The total assets on the 31st March, 1907, were £93,813, and the liabilities £12,552, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of £81,261. Of this amount the sum of £54,301 has been taken into account in fixing the grant-in-aid for 1907-8, leaving £26,960 still available.

(D.) CURRENCY.

The currency of the Uganda Protectorate remains upon the basis of the Indian rupee, consisting of silver coins of India and of the late Imperial British East Africa Company, as under:—

Silver.

- 1 rupee piece.
- 8 anna piece.
- 4 anna piece.
- 2 anna piece.

Copper.

Quarter anna piece or pice of India and of the late Imperial British East Africa Company.

Cowrie Shells.

These are still used amongst the natives, but the prohibition of their importation into the Protectorate and their non-exploitation by the Government is steadily wearing down their popularity. This action will be completed by the introduction of the subsidiary coinage ranging from 50 cents (eight pence) to a half-cent. (less than one-third of a farthing).

"The East Africa and Uganda (Currency) Order in Council, 1905," was published on the first of June of that year, and came into operation on the 1st of April, 1906, except in so far as it refers to the new subsidiary coinage based upon the decimal system, as current in Ceylon. This decimal coinage will be of the following values:—

50 cents.
25 cents.
10 cents.
5 cents.
1 cent.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent.

Under the provisions of the Order-in-Council currency notes of the values of:—

Rs. 5
Rs. 10
Rs. 20
Rs. 50
Rs. 100
Rs. 500

were put into circulation during the year.

The only bank doing business in the Protectorate is the National Bank of India, Limited, which established a branch at Entebbe in November, 1906.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

1. The total value of imports and exports (exclusive of goods in transit, specie, and Government stores) for the last five years was:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1902-3	62,168	29,540	91,708
1903-4	114,472	43,156	157,628
1904-5	143,297	60,378	203,675
1905-6	165,618	89,826	255,444
1906-7	222,538	116,001	338,539

2. The total value of imports of goods in transit, specie, and Government stores during the last five years was:—

Year.	Goods in Transit.	Specie.	Government Stores.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1902-3	370	—	12,500	12,870
1903-4	8,460	11,089	13,000	32,549
1904-5	6,294	21,900	19,320	47,514
1905-6	21,125	19,438	9,224	49,787
1906-7	41,638	12,064	19,922	73,624

3. The total value of all imports for the last five years was:—

	£
1902-3	75,038
1903-4	147,021
1904-5	190,811
1905-6	215,405
1906-7	296,212

Comparative Statement of Imports.

Articles.	1905-6.	1906-7.	Increase.	Decrease.
Class I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco:—	£	£	£	£
Grain	—	256	256	—
Rice	2,524	4,091	1,567	—
Flour	3,645	4,397	752	—
Provisions	15,970	19,697	3,727	—
Foreign wines and spirits	7,063	9,698	2,635	—
Ale and beer	837	1,983	1,146	—
Tobacco	1,903	2,534	631	—
Total Class I.	31,942	42,656	10,714	—
Class II.—Raw Materials (Unmanufactured):—				
Wood	589	3,379	2,790	—
Oils	2,634	6,172	3,538	—
Ivory	10,913	11,658	745	—
Cattle and miscellaneous live stock	131	451	320	—
Horses	100	120	20	—
Donkeys	17	33	16	—
Mules	268	110	—	158
Goats and sheep	53	23	—	30
Rubber	7,610	17,556	9,946	—
Hides and skins	34	247	213	—
Miscellaneous... ..	—	566	566	—
Total Class II.	22,349	40,315	18,154	188
Carried forward	54,291	82,971	28,668	188

Comparative Statement of Imports—cont.

Articles.	1905-6.	1906-7.	Increase	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	54,291	82,971	28,868	188
Class III.—Manufactured or partly :—				
Iron and steel—				
Ammunition	536	401	—	135
Firearms	1,091	713	—	378
Corrugated iron	5,488	5,966	478	—
Other unenumerated	3,095	4,509	1,414	—
Hardware	5,359	7,387	2,028	—
Machinery	3,503	8,556	5,053	—
Manufactures of wood	4,827	2,022	—	2,805
Yarns and textile fabrics—				
Americani (unbleached calico) ...	35,606	44,789	9,183	—
Bafta (long cloth)	49,148	6,492	—	—
Other kinds	—	62,906	20,250	—
Chemicals, drugs, &c.	1,370	1,334	—	36
Leather	1,366	1,793	427	—
Earthenware, chinaware, and glass...	2,429	1,801	—	628
Paper	2,436	2,020	—	416
Cement	1,186	1,291	105	—
Lime	2	225	223	—
Miscellaneous... ..	12,722	26,001	13,279	—
Total Class III.	130,164	178,206	52,440	4,398
Class IV.—Miscellaneous and unclassified.	2,288	3,049	761	—
Bullion and specie	19,438	12,064	—	7,374
Stores imported by the Government...	9,224	19,922	10,698	—
Grand Total... ..	215,405	296,212	92,767	11,960

Nett increase, £80,807.

Table Distinguishing Imports from Foreign Countries from Imports from United Kingdom, India, and British Possessions (exclusive of Specie and Government Stores).

—	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	27,975	52,572	67,121	79,671	87,197
British Possessions—					
India and Burma	6,400	12,739	23,903	23,655	19,102
British East Africa	1,570	3,447	784	756	2,309
Ceylon	—	—	—	—	378
	Included in these years under Miscellaneous Asiatic Ports.				
South Africa	Included in these years under Miscellaneous African Ports.				117
Total	35,945	68,758	91,808	104,082	109,103
Carried forward	35,945	68,758	91,808	104,082	109,103

Table Distinguishing Imports, &c.—cont.

	1902-3.	1903-4.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
	£	£	£	£	£
Carried forward ...	35,945	68,758	91,808	104,082	109,103
Foreign Countries—					
Germany	6,720	14,093	17,510	16,452	53,930
Italy	1,835	2,405	4,474	3,236	3,385
Russia				—	2,336
	Included in these years under Miscellaneous European Ports.				
Belgium	1,735	399	79	—	6,810
Holland	1,245	3,087	2,531	504	488
France	905	1,734	1,665	3,332	4,030
Miscellaneous European Ports.				4,912	2,709
Egypt	1,265	698	374	523	368
United States of America	9,465	19,203	21,652	33,617	45,407
Arabia	1,185	96	—	642	419
German East Africa ...	895	1,782	1,898	1,072	2,798
French Possessions ...				—	20
	Included in these years under Miscellaneous Ports.				
Congo Free State ...	435	8,468	6,328	18,512	32,284
Asiatic Ports	845	2,156	975	176	139
African Ports	65	319	480	800	—
Total	26,595	54,440	57,966	82,788	155,123
Grand Total	62,540	123,198	149,774	186,860	264,226

The above tables show an increase in trade, which, in most instances, is very satisfactory. Provisions, corrugated iron, "Unenumerated," hardware (tools, &c.), machinery, yarns and textile fabrics, leather, and miscellaneous, show figures indicating a sure and wholesome advance in civilizing progress, and, in particular, to that spread of "wants" among the natives which is the most practical incentive to industry, even if it may not be ethically ideal in all its bearings. The large reduction in "Manufactures of wood" is in its way also beneficial, as it is a sign of growing local industry. Besides an additional number of furniture workshops in the principal centres, many of the chiefs in the interior have their own staff of carpenters and other artisans. Though there is a large import of leather this year, there is also a local tannery at work which is producing quite a fair supply of leather, in the tanning of which local barks are used. On the other hand there are items which call for reflection in their pointing to a lack of local enterprise. For instance, the quantities of rice imported in bulk for the last three years are as under:—

	From India.	From German East Africa.
	lbs.	lbs.
1904-5	102,806	359,844
1905-6	183,495	159,548
1906-7	159,335	485,756

That a satisfactory production of rice was practicable in Uganda was demonstrated years ago, but political disorders then checked the industry, and it has never recovered. An uncertainty of a market has been much to blame for this, for the "Ugandan" can subsist so easily that he risks little on chance. This is a drawback of the country's natural productiveness which is being steadily combated with some practical economic results.

Oils, again, give opportunities for local enterprise. The figures given include largely those for kerosene, which we cannot replace locally, but much can be done to supply vegetable oils. Sem-sem, cotton seed, sunflower, and castor oils, have already been produced on a small scale by Government means, but the example has not yet been followed, though much talked of, by commercial firms.

The increase in timber imports, will, I believe, be short-lived, now that our forests are being successfully exploited; time is yet required for seasoning the woods.

The table showing countries of origin of imports is one which should attract the attention of our British Chambers of Commerce. Of a total of £264,226, plus £19,922 (for Government Stores): £284,148, £109,103

19,922

£129,025 come from British possessions, and £155,123 from foreign countries. In particular, attention should be drawn to the

Imports of Unbleached Calico, locally known as Americani.

From	...	...	United Kingdom.	U.S. America.	Italy.	India.
			Yards.	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.
1904-5	..	...	7,200	1,113,080	64,460	276,138
1905-6	...	...	48,684	1,881,039	30,350	107,210
1906-7	...	...	19,417	2,566,843	112,750	13,450

[illegible]

The net increase of £26,175 under exports is not yet up to the standard of our expectations, though the trade which it represents now strains our systems of communications and transport to their utmost limit.

Part of the productive season has been disappointing—a fault not very usual in this country—so crops have not reached their best in quality and quantity. Yet a glance at the figures opposite to sem-sem and cotton are encouraging, and those against ground-nuts point to a new and growing trade. I should mention that the results of the year's sales in Liverpool proved that the local valuation of cotton could be taken as somewhere about 50 per cent. short of true value.

The business done in butter (ghee), hides, and skins, has been good, a notable fact being the rise in value of sheep skins and a fall in that of goat skins. The output of rubber has increased, temporarily perhaps, as strict regulations for collection must, for a time, check a crude tapping, which, giving copious returns yet proves destructive to the rubber-producing trees and vines. The industry will be a staple one in this country in a few years, so far as the prospects of the rubber trade generally can be judged.

Most of the unrefined sugar now produced at the local factories is absorbed by Asiatic residents and natives, and so reduces the export returns.

The tardy expansion of the coffee trade in spite of its known opportunities, of the proved quality of the local production, and of the ready market offered for it, is difficult to explain.

One reason given is a growing local demand, the people now steadily acquiring a taste for it in beverage form in addition to the old habit of chewing the bean. Another is that the European and Asiatic residents have, as a rule, adopted the local coffee in preference to that imported. Though these are among the best of arguments in favour of the local product, they do not explain its failure to become a large industry. Heavy rail and other freights are partly responsible, but perhaps the most forcible deterrent is the number of years which are required to bring the tree to maturity and so become productive to the grower. There are, undoubtedly, increasing plantations of thousands of trees of some years' growth which will soon add to the output.

Cocoa does not yet figure on the lists of exports, but experiments demonstrate that the tree will be one of the principal revenue producers; its growth in the Botanical Gardens wins admiration, and the Imperial Institute passes the beans as being of good economic value, notwithstanding that the preparation of the samples sent for inspection was naturally of an elementary character.

As was predicted last year, the market in chillies has proved to be fluctuating; however, the product exists, practically in a wild state, to wait its chance another year.

The fibre trade has succumbed to that in cotton—the native finding it comparatively unprofitable.

Cotton has made its mark upon the country as its principal industry, and the bulk of the population within easy access of shipping will be occupied by it to an extent, indeed, that makes it appear as if attention to other products will be given merely as a distraction.

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, &C.

There is nothing of value to add under this head to last year's report, no opportunities for definite movements in the directions indicated having been offered.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATION.

The prediction of cotton production becoming the national industry is being fulfilled, and the cotton fields are so extending as to call for organised departmental machinery to guide the industry. The exports rose from 43 tons in 1905-6 to 175 tons in 1906-7, but this has not represented the increase in trade, some hundreds of tons of unginned cotton being in store at the end of the year. This subject is now so large and important as to require treatment in a special paper.

Coffee and cocoa culture have already been commented upon, (under "Exports").

Rubber planting is being extended by commercial enterprise and is being taken up by the natives. The Para trees mentioned in previous reports are maintaining their satisfactory rate of progress, the following figures being the records, on 31st March, 1907:—

—	Date of Planting.	Height.	Girth at 3 ft. above ground
		ft. in.	inches
Para	November, 1904	21 10	8
Castilloa	June, 1904	11 10	17

The original Para tree, mentioned in previous reports, at 5½ years measured 30 feet in height and 17½ inches in girth three feet above the ground.

Experiments in the cultivation of the indigenous *Funtumia elastica* are being made in appropriate forest sheltered spots.

Specimens of local produce, especially of woods, have been sent to the Imperial Institute for examination. Large quantities of seeds and seedlings of economic plants, *e.g.*, rubber,

coffee, and cocoa have been distributed among Europeans and natives, and useful agricultural knowledge has been widely diffused by means of pamphlets printed in the vernacular throughout the country. A large number of local species have been added to the Herbarium.

The Botanical Department is issuing a separate report which will give in detail much of the valuable work done by it.

(E.) SHIPPING.

Railway steamers call once a week on mail and cargo work and make monthly easterly and westerly voyages round the Lake.

The s.s. "Sir William Mackinnon," a Protectorate armed vessel, has been even more than usually useful during the year; in the latter part, in addition to her usual duties, having been used in organising regular services for the encouragement of new transport routes, *viz.*, the Nile from the Lake Victoria to Unyoro. The steam-launch "Victoria," after being made useful for traffic with the railway steamers at Entebbe until the completion of the pier, was placed upon the Nile and Lake Kioga for the purposes of the new route first mentioned.

The steel boat, purchased last year, was detailed to assist the launch "Victoria."

The steam-launch and two sailing vessels, engaged in Lake Albert-Nimule traffic, have been much occupied in regular Government work, and so have not been able to do justice to the traffic between Butiaba and the Congo ports.

III.—LEGISLATION.

No.	Substance of the Law.	Date.
1.	The Civil Procedure (Recognised Agents) Ordinance, 1907.	24th January, 1907.
2.	The Uganda Rivers Ordinance, 1907 ...	29th March, 1907.
3.	Authentication of Signatures to Documents Ordinance, 1907.	6th June, 1907.
4.	The Uganda Treasury Savings Bank Ordinance, 1907.	9th September, 1907.
5.	The Uganda Removal of Undesirable Natives Ordinance, 1907.	21st October, 1907.
6.	The Uganda Oaths Ordinance, 1907 ...	28th November, 1907.

Order in Council.

The Colonial Prisoners Removal Order in Council, 1907.	9th September, 1907.
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IV.—EDUCATION.

A grant of £150 was made from public funds towards the support of scholarships for students in the High School of the Church Missionary Society. It is expected that the other Missions will shortly be able to make arrangements to participate in such grants. His Highness the Kabaka of Uganda continues to be taught by an English tutor, at the expense of the Government. Otherwise, the cost of education throughout the Protectorate is borne by the various Missions.

The accompanying table has been compiled from figures furnished by the Missions:—

Missions.	1904-5.		1905-6.		1906-7.	
	No. of Schools	No. of Children on rolls.	No. of Schools.	No. of Children on rolls.	No. of Schools.	No. of Children on rolls.
Church Missionary Society.	42	1,972	45	5,648	58	12,878
White Fathers ...	45	5,729	51	5,951	52	6,380
St. Joseph's Mill Hill Mission.	11	1,450	11	961	13	1,091

* Under Native Teachers.

IV A.—ECCLESIASTICAL.

The activities of the Missions may be judged from the accompanying table of churches belonging to each:—

Mission Churches.

Missions.	1904-5.	1905-6.	1906-7.
Church Missionary Society (Protestant)	1,082*	1,070*	1,025*
White Fathers (direct supervision of the Fathers) (Catholic).	17	18	18
White Fathers (Under native teachers) (Catholic).	—	—	806
St. Joseph's Mill Hill (Catholic) ...	12	11	11

* 63 of these have been registered as Churches. The remainder are more or less under the supervision of native teachers.

Schools exist in connection with all these churches, and the ordinary work of education is being carried on in each centre side by side with purely religious and ecclesiastical work.

IVB.—MARRIAGES.

(A.) NATIVE.

The following statement shows the number of churches registered by the various missions in accordance with the Marriage Ordinances, and the number of native marriages that have been registered during the year, as compared with last year:—

Missions.	No. of Churches Registered.	No. of Native Marriages.	
		1905.	1906.
Church Missionary Society	62	717	668
St. Joseph's (Mill Hill) Mission ...	11	250	214
White Fathers	18	1,294	1,281
Muhammadan marriages	—	58	103
Total		2,319	2,466

(B.) EUROPEAN.

	1905	1906
European Marriages for the period under review	2	6
„ Births „ „ „	12	5
„ Deaths „ „ „	4	4

The registration of births and deaths of natives is not yet made compulsory.

V.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

1906.

The following tables show the number of criminal cases and the number of persons tried on criminal charges and number of civil cases taken out in the High Court and the Courts constituted under the Subordinate Courts Ordinance, 1902, compared with the last two years. The figures include criminal

and civil cases tried by the British Courts constituted under the Native Courts Ordinance, 1905, which appear for the first time in this report:—

Criminal.

Year.	Discharged for want of evidence.	Convicted.	Acquitted.	Total number of persons.	Total number of cases.
1904	51	574	121	746	598
1905	81	744	109	934	646
1906	79	639	65	783	652
British Native Courts(B.N.C.)	6 } 85	47 } 686	4 } 69	57 } 840	37 } 689

Civil.

Year.	Amounts of Rs. 150 and under.	Amounts above Rs. 150 to Rs. 500.	Amounts above Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,500.	Amounts above Rs. 1,500.	Value not stated.	Total.
1904	269	53	16	8	—	346
1905	232	40	15	9	—	296
1906	220	62	22	11	4	319
(B.N.C.)	22 } 242	4 } 66	4 } 26	—	46 } 50	76 } 395

Thirty criminal cases were tried in the Superior Courts, 12 by the High Court, and 18 by Courts of Session during the year; in addition 11 cases of serious crime were tried by the British Native Courts, and the following table compares the cases of serious crime for the last six years:—

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Murder and homicide (B.N.C.)	4	4	4	4	15	9 } 17
Attempt at murder ... (B.N.C.)	3	1	—	1	—	1 } 2
Rape	3	—	—	2	4	5 } 6
(B.N.C.)	—	—	—	—	—	1 } 2
Robbery	—	—	3	—	—	1 } 2
(B.N.C.)	—	—	—	—	—	1 } 2
Housebreaking	2	1	—	—	1	1
Grievous hurt	18	1	3	11	3	—
Mischief by fire	—	—	—	1	1	3
Total	30	7	10	19	24	20 } 31
(B.N.C.)	—	—	—	—	—	11 } 31

The cases dealt with by the High Court on appeal, &c., during 1906, compared with 1904 and 1905, are shown below:

Year.	Appeals.		Confirmation of Death Sentences.	Civil Revision.	Criminal Revision.
	Civil.	Criminal.			
1904	10	2	1	—	—
1905	5	2	3	—	2
1906	5	3	5	1	36

The special jurisdictions vested in the High Court were exercised as shown below:—

—	1904.	1905.	1906.
1. Admiralty	—	—	—
2. Probate and Administration... ..	42	40	25
3. Divorce... ..	—	6	5
4. Lunacy	—	—	4
5. Bankruptcy	—	—	2

Five miscellaneous applications to the High Court in matters other than cases before the Court were dealt with during the year.

The Chronological Table and Index of the Laws in the Uganda Protectorate was prepared for the year by the Judges.

In September, 1906, an order was made under the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, 1906, directing that persons triable by the Courts of Session in the Kingdom of Uganda or the Central Province should until further order be committed for trial to the High Court; this order is still in force and the Sub-Commissioners in those provinces are thereby released from their duties as Sessions Judges.

A committee consisting of the two Judges, the Crown Advocate, and the Land Officer was appointed at the commencement of 1907 to report on and make recommendations with regard to the present laws and future legislation concerning land in the Protectorate; their report was submitted in March.

Judge Carter was appointed to enquire into the native customs with regard to land tenure in the Protectorate, and has since submitted reports on the subject.

VI.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) HOSPITALS.

There is one European hospital at Entebbe at which were treated during the year 42 cases with no deaths. There are also 13 native hospitals scattered throughout the Protectorate.

At these were treated, as in-patients, 799 cases, with 59 deaths, and, as out-patients, 40,994 cases with 51 deaths.

Each district is in charge of a medical officer who has under him at the various branch dispensaries, European dispensers, Indian hospital assistants, or Indian compounders. The work of the menial staff is performed by natives of the country. The number of vaccinations done in the Protectorate was 1,275, of which 254 were unsuccessful. The reason for these numbers being so small and the large percentage of failures is said to be due to the lymph seldom reaching the outstations in good condition and the present staff being insufficient to allow of extensive touring by the medical officers. The formation of a Government Vaccine Farm is recommended, and certainly the country is so much infected with small-pox as to justify the measure.

(B.) GAOLS.

The health of the inmates has been excellent and much better than that of natives in a similar class living in freedom in civil life.

Three cases of small-pox occurred in the main gaol at Entebbe, but rigid isolation, segregation, and vaccination were carried out and no further cases occurred. The infection was contracted while the prisoners were working outside the gaol.

There are no Government asylums, poor-houses, reformatories, &c., in the Protectorate.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

Excepting in the Uganda Kingdom it is not yet possible to make a census of the people in the Protectorate which would be sufficiently accurate for statistical purposes.

Roughly speaking, the population of the several provinces and districts is:—

Uganda	...	...	...	656,000
Central Province	...	...	...	1,840,000
Unyoro	...	...	...	234,000
Toro	...	...	...	68,000
Ankole	...	...	...	250,000
Nile Province	...	...	...	191,000

Note.—Uganda Kingdom—

Total Population, 1906-7	...	...	...	655,817
Death Rate per 1,000	...	...	...	30.1
Birth " "	...	...	...	18.9

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The public health has, as a whole, been as good as might be expected in a country afflicted by sleeping sickness, a certain amount of small-pox, and having suffered a famine owing to a failure of the rains.

There was an increase of malaria and blackwater fever in the stations round the Lake shore during the months of May, June, and July.

Sleeping sickness and syphilis are the two diseases that chiefly account for the low birth-rate. Both these diseases have been the subject of special Medical Commissions, and proposals have been made and are in part being carried out for their abatement. Special attention has been paid to malaria, and there is now no doubt that the measures taken for clearing the foreshore and draining the swamps in the vicinity of Entebbe, Jinja, and Munyonyo, are having effect.

Epidemics of small-pox, dengue, beri-beri, and measles, have occurred in the country during the year.

Plague remains endemic in certain areas of the Protectorate.

There was a small but severe outbreak at Mbale in Bukedi.

SLEEPING SICKNESS.

The end of the year was marked by the inauguration of the measure for the complete evacuation by the inhabitants of the fly-infested shores of the Lake, thus removing at one swoop the main source of infection.

The mapping of the distribution of *Glossina palpalis* was practically completed by the Sleeping Sickness Extended Investigation, and its close association with the epidemic of sleeping sickness confirmed. There has been a progressive diminution in the number of deaths, probably owing to decrease and removal of population from fly-haunted areas.

The bulk of the interior of the Uganda Protectorate has been found to be fly-free and suitable for the reception of infected Lake-shore people when their removal was found practicable. Clearing the shores about Government stations, landings, &c., has proved to be effective in getting rid of *Glossina palpalis* locally. A camp was opened in Busiro for local segregation of the sick and for the trial of special treatment by atoxyl. The general condition of the camp and the results from treatment at the close of the year were rather hopeful.

There has been a gratifying change in the native attitude towards the preventive measures adopted or proposed by Government. With an increased knowledge of sleeping sickness and of its relation to the fly which carries it has come an increased confidence and interest, especially noticeable among the Chiefs in the Uganda Kingdom.

(C.) SANITATION.

The conservancy in vogue in the main stations is almost entirely the pail system. This has proved very satisfactory, and it is hoped to extend it to other stations in the near future. The native method of pits may be excellent for small communities but cannot be considered generally suitable where the presence of such pits may defile the water supply.

The water supply for Entebbe and Hoims is very good, but the same cannot be said of some of the other stations.

In all stations the water should be boiled and filtered before being used. Disease due to water infection is very common among the natives of the Protectorate.

METEOROLOGY.

(A.) RAINFALL.

Observations were maintained at Entebbe and eight out-stations.

At Entebbe the rainfall was 59·42, or 6·32 inches less than 1905. The average rainfall for the last seven years at Entebbe is 58·83 inches. The heaviest rainfall recorded was that at Mbarara, where 68·90 inches fell, a decrease of 26·67 inches on that of the previous year.

(B.) SUNSHINE.

The mean daily bright sunshine at Entebbe was 6 hours 6 minutes. A daily mean of 7 hours 12 minutes was registered in October, while February had only a daily mean of 4 hours 42 minutes, as compared with 7 hours 45 minutes last year.

(C.) TEMPERATURE.

At Entebbe the highest maximum temperature recorded was 86·5° on the 12th March, the lowest minimum 55·2°, on the 25th December.

Nimule experienced the highest maximum temperature, viz., 108·0°, and Wadelai recorded the lowest, viz., 43·0°, but there is a doubt of the accuracy of the latter.

(D.) LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE OF ENTEBBE.

The final values for latitude and longitude have been determined to be—

Latitude 0° 4' 2·75" N.

Longitude 32° 27' 45·20" E.

(E.) LAKE LEVELS.

The levels of Lake Victoria throughout the year were higher than usual.

VIII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

POSTAL.

There has been a considerable increase of work during the year, the transactions in some cases being more than double those recorded for the previous year. The most noticeable increase has been in connection with the correspondence between Kampala and Jinja and the different offices in the East Africa Protectorate. The Money Order returns show an increase of £6,000 in the remittances to Uganda, this mainly on account of the trade in cotton and chillies.

The system of relay mail service, *i.e.*, mails conveyed by runners stationed at different points along the route, has been extended during the year by the arrangement of a relayed service to Masaka and Mbarara. The mails so forwarded have been received with great regularity, the journey from Entebbe to Masaka (70 miles) being performed in 26 hours, and from Entebbe to Mbarara (140) in 2½ days. Arrangements have been made to apply the same system to the mails between Jinja and Mbale (Mount Elgon), and a similar service to Toro is under consideration.

Owing to the development of trade at Jinja it was found necessary to appoint a European to that station for postal work, and still more recently it has been found necessary to appoint an assistant. Up to 1904 the postal work was done by the clerk attached to the Collectorate. It would be difficult to find a parallel in a tropical country to the rapid increase and development of trade at Jinja.

A Departmental Post and Money Order Office has been opened at Gondokoro. The amount of money order business has been inconsiderable up to the present, but the office was warranted in connection with the direct exchange of mails with Khartum, which required the presence of a trained postal official at the station.

An arrangement for the issue and payment of British Postal Orders at Entebbe and Kampala came into operation on the 1st October, 1906. It is intended to extend the service to other places in Uganda during the ensuing financial year.

A direct parcel post exchange has been established with South Africa; it came into force on 1st July, 1906.

Additional officers have been provided at Entebbe, Kampala, Jinja, and Gondokoro, in order to cope with the increasing postal business.

TELEGRAPHS.

The telegraph line between Kisumu (Railhead) and Jinja has been improved by the addition of a second wire (iron).

The original light copper wire will be replaced by iron as circumstances permit. The dismantled copper wire will be used for telephone extensions in towns.

Telephones are in general use between Government Offices in Entebbe and Kampala, and it is hoped that the system may soon be sufficiently perfect to admit of the general public being allowed to become subscribers.

There are 458 miles of telegraph lines in Uganda, independently of telephone wires.

The Uganda maintenance staff consists of 1 assistant superintendent, 3 European inspectors, 2 assistant inspectors, 3 Indian linesmen, and 8 African assistant linesmen.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The following table gives the military expenditure for the last six years, exclusive of that upon the police:—

Year.					Amount.
					£
1901-2	...	...	...	...	84,939
1902-3	...	...	...	...	74,395
1903-4	...	...	...	...	62,390
1904-5	...	...	...	...	53,352
1905-6	...	...	...	...	57,207
1906-7	...	...	...	...	43,871

The health of the African troops was satisfactory, and the health of the officers was fair, except at Nimule, where three cases of blackwater fever occurred, one of which terminated fatally. Nimule is in process of evacuation by the troops.

The new Indian contingent suffered considerably from malaria after their arrival. The two sepoys who contracted sleeping sickness are progressing favourably, and no further cases have been detected.

It has been found necessary to discharge nearly all the more elderly native soldiers, and younger men have been recruited to replace them. A trial has been made with a section of natives from Bukedi. At present opinions vary as to their

suitability, but that of the senior officers is favourable, and the result of the experiment is to be reported later.

Preparations are being made for the concentration of the troops at Bombo, 23 miles from Kampala.

One company and a half have been acting as escort to the Uganda-Congo Boundary Commission.

As soon as the concentration of the troops is completed, it is expected that the efficiency of the battalion will be greatly increased.

POLICE.

On the 25th May, 1906, an Inspector-General of Police and Prisons was appointed, and so those establishments have gained a distinct organisation.

The police have been recruited from native races, as follows:—

Nilotic	...	...	...	...	276
Swahili	...	...	...	...	37
Baganda	...	...	...	...	496
Kavirondo	...	...	...	...	63
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	103

A uniform system of recruiting throughout the Protectorate is under consideration.

The physique of the men is fair. A standard measurement has now been laid down, and no recruit will in future be attested who does not measure 5 feet 6 inches in height and 33 inches in chest measurement.

VOLUNTEER RESERVE.

The volunteers are armed with Lee-Enfield rifles, of which a complete equipment for 100 men is kept in store. Fifty members passed the capitation standard during the year.

The cost of the corps to public funds was slightly greater than the year before owing to the large number of members passing the capitation standard.

X.—GENERAL

ADMINISTRATION.

In the year in question, the Government of the Protectorate was controlled by His Majesty's Commissioner, assisted by a Deputy Commissioner and a Secretary, and a staff of four Sub-Commissioners who administer the provinces. Under the immediate supervision of these latter officers nine Collectors

and 20 Assistant Collectors officered the divisions known as districts and sub-districts.

The native Governments of Uganda and Toro have continued to perform their duties with satisfaction; as did, also, the native Government of Unyoro until the end of the year, when there were signs of slackness, which have since been corrected.

The Province of Ankole has very much improved in tone and temper during the year. The fine inflicted for the murder of Mr. Galt was paid without the slightest tension being incurred, and the country seems to be inclined to benefit by the lesson it received.

The remarkable progress made by the Central Province has been maintained during the year under review, and Jinja has now become the centre of a great trade activity.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure on public works during the year 1906-7 was £27,359, classified as under:—

		1905-6	1906-7
		£	£
Personal Emoluments	... ..	1,795	4,788
Upkeep and Repairs	... ..	3,225	1,837
New Works	... ..	13,073	20,734
		18,093	27,359

The principal attention of the department has been directed to new works during the year. At Entebbe, numerous buildings were erected, including a set of quarters for three European subordinates, quarters for six clerks, a large market roofed with galvanised iron, police lines, township store, workshop, sheds, a slaughter-house, and eight corrugated iron buildings lined with matchboarding and cement floors, for the Sleeping Sickness Commission.

The new Government House was commenced during the year, and the Customs House was removed from the breakwater to the railway pier.

A new road was made connecting with the railway pier, Entebbe, and repairs were done to the Entebbe-Butiaba road, Jinja-Iganga road, Munyono-Kampala road, and a few cement culverts on the main road between Lake Victoria and Lake Albert, and, in addition, a substantial bridge was built over the Maanja River.

SURVEY.

The scale of the topographical survey has been reduced from $\frac{1}{2}$ " to a mile to 1/125,000. For cadastral surveys within the

native capital a scale of 1/1500 has been employed; this was rendered necessary by the smallness of the estates, of which many are under one acre.

It will not be necessary to beacon any further area for main triangulation within the Kingdom of Uganda, and no extension of this work was made during the year under review.

An area of 13,630 square miles had been previously prepared, and within this area observations had been completed with 10" theodolite over approximately 1,034 square miles, making the total to date 5,694 square miles, approximately: continued haze interfered largely with this work. Observations for secondary triangulation were completed over a further area of 908 square miles. The average triangular error of the main work is under five seconds, that of the secondary 4'814 seconds.

The area over which detail for topographical survey had been completed at the end of March, 1907, was 2,991 square miles, an increase for the year of 366 square miles.

The area over which observations for the cadastral survey scale 1/10,000 were completed during the year is approximately 40 square miles, making the total area to date 430 square miles. Detail was completed over 82 square miles, and the total area completed to date is 382 square miles. Of the area of 82 square miles surveyed during the year five miles was on a scale of 1/2500, the number of estates within that area being 350.

During the year an inspection of the department took place by Major Hills, R.E., C.M.G.

LAND OFFICE.

The number of leases granted during the year was 49, the number of grants 7, total 56: the corresponding numbers for the previous year were 64 and 2, total 66: therefore there is a decrease shown compared with the previous year of 10.

The leases granted were 46 township, 2 agricultural, and 1 forest, the grants 3 township, and 4 agricultural, while 4 leases of township plots were cancelled; the resulting net increase in revenue is £506.

A large number of applications have been received, mostly from South Africa, from persons desirous of taking up land in Uganda, but little or no tangible progress has been made in this direction, mainly owing to the difficulty of obtaining land in suitable localities. A scheme has been propounded by the Land Officer whereby it is believed that this difficulty could be overcome: it consists in allowing leading natives to dispose of a percentage of their land under Government supervision. It appears to be generally admitted that the terms on which Government is now prepared to grant freehold of agricultural

	DISTRICTS.							
	Uganda Kingdom.	Unyoro.	Ankole.	Gondokoro (Bari).	Busoga.	Shuli.	Toro.	Total.
Brought forward ...	249	111	164	176	31	120	42	898
Dik-dik ... { M.	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	4
{ F.	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Jackal ... { M.	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
{ F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lion ... { M.	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
{ F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sitatunga ... { M.	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
{ F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Roan Antelope ... { M.	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
{ F.	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
Wild Dog ... { M.	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	3
{ F.	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Monkey ... { M.	2	2	—	—	—	—	7	11
{ F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	4
Colobus Monkey ... { M.	—	4	2	—	—	4	1	11
{ F.	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	3
Antelope, Class B. ... { M.	11	—	—	1	1	—	—	13
{ F.	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
Civet Cat ... { M.	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	5
{ F.	—	2	9	—	—	—	—	11
Elind ... { M.	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
{ F.	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Prong Buck ... { M.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
{ F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rhinoceros ... { M.	—	1	—	3	1	1	—	6
{ F.	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Tragelaphus Speke... { M.	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	3
{ F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Heads ...	268	126	189	190	33	131	53	990

GENERAL CONDITION OF THE PROTECTORATE.

Compared with the returns of the previous year, revenue shows an increase from £76,789 to £96,772, or of 26·02 per cent. Hut and Poll Taxes have increased by £8,701, or by 19·04 per cent.; trade shows an increase from £305,231 to £412,213; while expenditure has been practically the same, £191,502, as against £191,142 in the former year.

These figures are so distributed as to show an agreeable progress throughout the Protectorate, excepting perhaps in the Nile Province, where the sphere of active administration is for the time being kept within practicable limits.

In addition to that provided by steadily expanding revenue the best indications of good order and contentment are such as may be seen in the response by the Uganda native authorities to the measure for the clearance of inhabitants from the whole length of the Lake shore, from the Nile to the Kagera Rivers, the field of sleeping sickness infection and in the peaceable collection of the fine imposed upon Ankole.

The great development of the Central Province has already been mentioned.

The only disturbing circumstance in the Protectorate has been an appearance, at the end of the year, of unrest among many of the Unyoro Chiefs, which culminated later in an unreasonable attitude of defiance. It was rapidly settled without resort to force.

I have refrained throughout this report from dwelling upon several subjects which invite more expansive treatment, for the reason that much delay has already taken place in its production, and the compilation of the present year's report is now near at hand, when more justice can be done to the fuller development of affairs.

GEORGE WILSON,

Deputy Commissioner.

Entebbe,
March 31st, 1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's
Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained
from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

	Colony.	Year.
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906-1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast... ..	"
535	Malta	1906-1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906-1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
539	Leeward Islands	"
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate... ..	1906-1907
543	Bahamas	"
544	Barbados	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago	"
546	Grenada	"
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
549	Jamaica	1906-1907
550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906-1907
556	Basutoland... ..	"
557	East Africa Protectorate... ..	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

	Colony.	Subject.
44	East Africa Protectorate ...	Survey Department.
45	Do. do. ...	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey, 1904-5.
47	Do. do. ...	Do. 1905-6.
48	Nyasaland Protectorate ...	Do.
49	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies ...	Cultivation of Cotton.
51	Southern Nigeria ...	Forest Administration.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 569.

WEIHAIWEI.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 533.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

August, 1908.



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No. 569.

WEIHAIWEI.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 533.)

THE COMMISSIONER TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Port Edward,
Weihaiwei.
9th June, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the accompanying Report
on the territory of Weihaiwei for the year 1907.

I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Commissioner.

The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c.,
H.M.'s Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

FINANCIAL.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue collected during the year amounted to \$80,331, as compared with \$76,777 during the previous year. The expenditure during the year amounted to \$173,331, as compared with \$160,973 the expenditure of the previous year.

The following are the heads of revenue and expenditure for last year, as compared with those of the previous year:—

<i>Revenue.</i>			
Head.	1906-7.	1907-8.	
	\$	\$	
Licences and Internal Revenue ...	26,158	30,769	
Fees of Court ...	4,136	2,544	
Rents of Government Property, Land and Houses ...	42,933	45,597	
Interest ...	2,284	718	
Miscellaneous ...	1,266	703	
Total ...	76,777	80,331	

<i>Expenditure.</i>			
Head.	1906-7.	1907-8.	
	\$	\$	
Commissioner's Establishment ...	20,699	22,945	
Secretary to Government Estab- lishment ...	11,870	12,739	
District Officer Establishment ...	3,228	7,575	
Police and Gaol ...	23,277	24,688	
Medical and Sanitary ...	12,501	13,890	
Public Works Department ...	3,717	3,575	
Public Works ...	43,730	36,647	
Fruit and Forestry Department	4,751	5,118	
Miscellaneous Services ...	37,200	46,154	
Total	160,973	173,331	

The total revenue and expenditure for the last seven years is as follows:—

Years.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	\$	\$
1901-2 ...	22,220	121,877
1902-3 ...	35,456	102,044
1903-4 ...	58,586	165,873
1904-5 ...	90,355	162,282
1905-6 ...	105,934	146,120
1906-7 ...	76,777	160,973
1907-8 ...	80,331	173,331

The increased expenditure during 1907-8 was chiefly due to the cost of stores, taken over from the military authorities on the disbandment of the Chinese Regiment, having been defrayed during last financial year instead of during 1906-7.

Grant-in-Aid.

The deficit each year has been met by a grant-in-aid from Imperial funds, which has been as follows during the past seven years:—

Years.	Amount.
	£.
1901-2	11,250
1902-3	12,000
1903-4	9,000
1904-5	6,000
1905-6	3,000
1906-7	4,500
1907-8	10,000

The rise in the amount of the grant-in-aid was due to expenditure on account of an increased police force and the newly-created post of District Officer. But in this connection it should be borne in mind that by the disbandment of the Chinese Regiment, which was the reason for strengthening the police force and the creation of that post, a large saving of Imperial funds was effected.

Accounts.

Mr. Phelps, Local Auditor of Hong Kong, visited Weihaiwei and audited the accounts, on the keeping of which he reported favourably.

PUBLIC WORKS.

No public works of any special importance were undertaken during last year. Particular attention was paid to roads, which were extended and kept in good condition.

Floods caused the collapse of three bridges, which have been repaired and strengthened.

A new Court, with quarters for staff and police, was erected at Wench'üart'ang, to which place the District Officer had to move his headquarters when the Weihaiwei Gold Mining Company, which had kindly lent this Government a building, went into liquidation.

A landslip, caused by heavy rains, threatened the safety of the lighthouse at Flagstaff. The danger was removed by building a retaining wall.

LIGHTING.

The lighting of the Island and Port Edward has been very much improved by the erection of Lux lamps, which, while giving a good light, have proved easy to work and inexpensive.

POLICE.

The police were increased on the disbandment of the Chinese Regiment from a total of 21 with two European inspectors, to a total of 57 with three inspectors.

Nine policemen, with one inspector, are stationed on the Island of Liu Kung, and the remainder of the force at Port Edward and at the District Officer's headquarters.

All the police stationed on the mainland have been put through courses of musketry practice and field firing. The percentage of marksmen and first-class shots was satisfactory. Some of the police have also been trained in the use of a Maxim gun.

That such a small police force should be found sufficient for a territory the estimated population of which is 150,000 speaks well for the orderly nature of the Chinese who live here.

FIRE BRIGADE.

There was only one serious fire during the year, by which a row of godowns at Port Edward was burnt down, and as neither the buildings nor their contents were covered by insurance, the owners lost a sum estimated at \$20,000. As a difficulty was experienced in finding coolies to help at this fire, a Volunteer Fire Brigade has been formed to co-operate with the police. It consists of sixty Chinese shop assistants and some of the Chinese members of the Civil Service, who have shown great regularity and keenness in attending the monthly fire practices.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

There were no signs of any general increase of trade during the year, and, as has been pointed out in previous annual reports, so long as present circumstances exist, commercial development of this territory is not possible.

The port is duty free and no Custom House exists. It is not possible, therefore, to give accurate official returns of such small trade as is carried on, and Mr. E. Clark, of the firm of Messrs. Lavers & Clark, who kindly supplied the lists of exports and imports which appeared in former reports, has not been able to furnish them this year.

The export of ground-nuts and ground-nut seeds well maintained the satisfactory increase of the previous year, freight being saved by the shipment of seeds without husks.

The figures for the export of ground-nuts and seeds during the last three years are as follows:—

	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Piculs.*	Piculs.*	Piculs.*
Ground-nuts	5,219	24,168	12,294
Ground-nut seeds	2,877	13,505	25,320

* A picul = 133 lbs.

The growing of ground-nuts is rapidly increasing in the territory, and is proving very profitable.

About the same amount of oil was imported as in 1906, American oil showing an increase and Sumatra oil a decrease.

The export of salt fell off considerably as compared with the previous year.

FRUIT-GROWING AND AFFORESTATION.

Fruit cultivation in Weihaiwei has now been in progress long enough to prove that apples, pears, plums, grapes, gooseberries, and black currants can all be successfully and profitably produced.

With regard to apples, it has been found that, while most English varieties fail to keep, several American apples have kept very well. In particular, the Newtown Pippin keeps well into March, and its culture on a large scale should prove very profitable, as it could be shipped to markets more distant than Shanghai, possibly as far as Singapore.

Grapes ripened perfectly, and should prove to be one of the most profitable fruits, as it would give a quicker return than most other kinds.

Peaches and nectarines were small and disappointing, although the trees grew very well. This fruit may, however, improve when the trees are older.

Apricots cropped freely, but the fruit was small and nearly all spoilt by heavy rain.

Raspberries have not proved hardy, the canes having been all killed by the severe winter.

Figs also suffer from the cold, and in consequence the spring crop is lost.

There seems to be no doubt that Weihaiwei could be made a profitable centre for growing fruit, but there is no sign of either Europeans or Chinese being willing to come forward to invest capital here in fruit, or, indeed, in any other enterprise.

Afforestation was proceeded with on a small scale. As the plan of raising fir trees from seed had proved a failure, 150,000 one-year-old seedlings of *Pinus massoniana* were imported from Japan and have done well. About 2,000 firs raised by General Sir Arthur Dorward when Commissioner of this territory were planted out on the Island. Acacias, willows, and planes have been planted for avenues, and have all done well. The acacia in particular makes very free growth, and seems to be the most suitable tree for plantation and avenues.

The only two flowering and ornamental shrubs which have proved really useful, in addition to those mentioned in last year's report, are the *Sea Buckthorn* and *Pyracantha Lelandii*.

Of evergreens, the common green *Euonymus* and *Pittosporum* are the most useful. Laurels and other evergreens have proved failures.

Roses have grown and flowered well, and herbaceous flowers have proved successful.

Many seeds of local trees and shrubs have been collected, and propagation from stock of various shrubs is being steadily carried on.

The appearance of the hills could be much improved by afforestation, but this would necessitate tree planting on a much larger scale than can be afforded by a territory which is not self-supporting.

SHIPPING.

During the year 1907, 515 steamers, representing a tonnage of 372,411 tons, entered this port, as compared with 473 steamers, with a tonnage of 363,202 tons, during 1906. These figures are exclusive of Admiralty colliers and Government transports.

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were introduced after having been approved:—

1. The Anchorage and Junk and Boat Ordinance, 1907.
 2. The Pensions Ordinance, 1904, Amendment Ordinance, 1907.
 3. The Wild Birds and Game Preservation Ordinance, 1907.
-

EDUCATION.

During the past year the average attendance at the Government Free School was 51, as compared with 53 last year. The boys are required to possess a fair knowledge of Chinese before proceeding to the study of English. In all subjects requiring the exercise of memory such as elementary history and geography very good progress has been made. In other subjects such as arithmetic, requiring the exercise of the reasoning faculties, progress has not been so satisfactory. This is perhaps to be explained by the fact that for centuries past in Chinese schools the memory alone has been highly trained while the reasoning faculties have been left largely undeveloped. Education on modern lines is now becoming general in China, and Chinese teachers are trying to train not only the memory but also the reasoning faculties.

The health of the boys has been excellent, and regular physical drill has produced a marked improvement in their carriage and appearance.

The average attendance at the Anglo-Chinese School was 21 as compared with 18 in 1906, and the attendance is still rapidly increasing.

This school has become very popular among the Chinese owing to the energetic work of the Rev. A. E. Burne of the Anglican Mission. The standard aimed at is high, and the progress during the last year has been very good.

At other Mission Schools the average attendance was 20 at Dr. Case's School and 10 at Father Hallam's.

The average attendance at Mrs. Case's School for Chinese girls was 17 as compared with 15 last year.

At the free school on the Island established by Mr. Duncan Clark the average attendance was 32, less than last year when the average attendance was 43.

The number of pupils in attendance at the Weihaiwei School was 30. The health of the school was as usual excellent.

A school for Chinese girls is about to be started by the Chinese members of the local branch of the Anti-Foot-binding Society.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

CASES TRIED

In Appendix I. will be found an abstract of cases tried showing the offences and the number of convictions.

There were 907 convictions as compared with 449 in the previous year. Of these no fewer than 339 were for offences under the Gambling Ordinance.

CRIME.

The territory has never been more free from serious crime than during the last year. The marked absence of crime and the number and nature of the offences for which persons were tried show how remarkably well-behaved the inhabitants of this territory are.

Only one case was tried by the High Court, a charge of manslaughter. The accused, who was a stoker on board one of His Majesty's ships, was acquitted.

Cases of suicide have, as last year, been comparatively numerous. By far the greater number occur among women, the motive in many cases being trivial in the extreme. The frequency of suicide appears to be due partly to the fact that the idea of death in itself does not seem to act as a deterrent, and partly to the fact that the taking one's own life is apparently not regarded as disgraceful nor as implying any moral obliquity. The District Officer reports that, so far as his experience goes, the only occasions on which an act of suicide is condemned by the general voice of the community are when a young married woman destroys herself before she has presented her husband with a son or while she is still nursing an infant.

CIVIL.

As usual the great majority of cases tried were civil suits, chiefly concerned with the ownership of land, breach of contract, adoption, and inheritance, ancestral worship, administration of clan property and all the multifarious matters that arise from the intricate and complicated system of Chinese relationships. Litigation regarding those and kindred matters shows a continued tendency to increase, which is not so much due to the litigious spirit of the people as to an ever increasing appreciation of the advantages of the administration of justice under the British flag and to the establishment of the Court of the District Officer in a central portion of the territory amongst the agricultural population. The cheapness of litigation in Weihaiwei is to the Chinese certainly not one of its least attractive features. No court fees are charged and no solicitors or barristers practise in the territory. There can be no other place under British administration where litigation costs less than at Weihaiwei, so the people have discovered that when even a trivial quarrel arises it is much simpler and cheaper to have the case decided by the court than to adopt the usual Chinese method of enlisting the good services of "peace makers," a process that necessitates the preparation of a more or less costly banquet. This especially applies to the rural population, the members of which are more addicted to litigation, especially when not busy with their crops, than the mercantile class. The latter dislikes the waste of time involved in going to law and often prefers, unless the case is a serious one, to settle its differences privately.

GAOL.

The number of prisoners sentenced to imprisonment during 1907 was 108, the daily average of prisoners in gaol being 20, as compared with 125 prisoners in 1906 with a daily average of 23. There was one death in prison. The behaviour of the prisoners and their health were excellent.

It has been found that the cure during imprisonment of any but the most confirmed opium smokers has been effected by depriving the smoker entirely of the drug at the cost to him of not more than a week or ten days of diarrhoea and malaise.

HOSPITALS.*

The in-patients treated during the year on the Island numbered 35 and at Port Edward 120.

There were on the Island 2,520 out-patients, and at Port Edward 2,306. These figures show a very satisfactory increase, especially as regards the hospital at Port Edward. The out-patients during 1906 at the latter hospital were 806, so that the number of admissions during 1907 were nearly three times greater than during the previous year.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

The hospital statistics (Appendix II.) show that the territory has been remarkably free from disease during the past year. No cases of small-pox were reported.

The Chinese are fully alive to the advantages of vaccination which has been systematically carried out. The number of vaccinations performed were 3,737 on the mainland and 128 on the Island, as compared with 3,064 on the mainland and 223 on the Island in 1906.

There was very little dysentery at any time during the year.

Although no enteric fever could be traced locally, there were two cases among the summer visitors. One of these was certainly imported from Shanghai. The origin of the other case was more obscure, but it seems probable that in this case also infection was introduced from outside the territory.

* The figures under the heading Hospitals in the Report for 1906 are incorrectly given through a confusion between the number of attendances and the number of patients. The hospital statistics given in Appendix II. of the same report are correct.

Three cases of beri-beri occurred among the Japanese in connection with a single building.

The house and soil have been thoroughly disinfected, and it is hoped that there will be no recurrence of this disease

SANITATION.

The sanitary condition of Port Edward and the Island is good.

A new dairy erected on the mainland has been well kept and has supplied milk of a good quality.

METEOROLOGICAL.

In Appendix III. will be found the meteorological return for 1907. The highest monthly barometrical average was for December 30·209", and the lowest for August 29·624", the average monthly range being 0·546".

The highest temperature was 92° F., recorded in June and August, and the lowest 7° F., in January and February.

Rain or snow fell on 90 days, the annual fall being 37·85", an amount higher than the average and exceeded only once in the last seven years.

July was the wettest month, with a rainfall of 12·29".

POSTAL.

The number of mails received during the year was 648, containing, besides ordinary correspondence, 1,572 parcels and registered mail matter. The number of mails despatched was 348, containing, besides ordinary correspondence, 2,469 registered letters and parcels.

The re-opening of the Trans-Siberian route for carrying mails has greatly decreased the time taken for correspondence to reach England and Weihaiwei. All Siberian mails to and from London are forwarded through the British post office at Chefoo, communication with which is maintained both by sea and overland. Mails by way of Siberia from London have been received at Weihaiwei in sixteen days. Although this route has been re-opened for almost a year, many people do not yet seem to know that letters from London marked *via* Siberia can reach this territory almost twice as quickly as they can by way of the Suez Canal, and that the postage is only one penny an ounce.

The total receipts through the sale of stamps and postal notes amounted to \$10,760.64, as compared with \$10,343.38 in 1906.

GENERAL.

Although the general trade of Weihaiwei does not improve, the natives of the territory show signs of a gradually increasing prosperity, which is to a great extent due to the series of good harvests which they have enjoyed ever since the British flag was hoisted here. The value of agricultural land has risen greatly during the past few years, which has led to an eagerness to redeem mortgaged lands. Perhaps one of the surest indications of an advance in prosperity is shown by the fact that the gradual increase of prices for goods of almost every description, including Chinese necessities, appears to produce no change for the worse in the normal standard of living among the larger proportion of the population. Apart from the good harvests the comparative prosperity of the present time is also partly due to the visits of the British fleet, which, however, have been neither so long nor so frequent in recent times as they were formerly. But the prosperity of the people is due still more to the small but steady stream of money that flows into this territory from Manchuria. Many labourers from Weihaiwei find work in that country and always maintain connection with their old village home, to which many eventually return with large savings. It may be added, too, that a small portion of the money earned and saved by Chinese coolies, natives of Weihaiwei, who went to South Africa, is now circulating in this territory.

Most friendly relations have been maintained during the past year between the officers of this Government and the Chinese officials in the districts coterminous with this territory. The latter have always shown themselves willing to render assistance in all cases in which their co-operation has been invited. In fact, during the past six years the most harmonious relations have always existed between the representatives of the Government of China in the province of Shantung and the Government of Weihaiwei.

I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,

Commissioner.

Government House,

Weihaiwei,

9th June, 1908.

APPENDIX I.

ABSTRACT OF CASES.

HIGH COURT.

	Offence.					Charged.	Convicted.
Manslaughter	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	1	—

MAGISTRATE'S COURT (PORT EDWARD).

	Offences.					Convictions.	
Assault	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Begging	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Breach of anchorage regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Breach of dog regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Breach of junk regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Breach of sanitary regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Breach of opium ordinance	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Breach of spirits ordinance	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bribery	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Committing a nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Contempt of court	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Creating disturbance	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Cruelty to animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Damaging Government property	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Drunk and disorderly	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Embezzlement	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
False pretences	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gambling	...	...	...	...	...	...	134
Impersonation	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Keeping disorderly house	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Neglect of duty	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Neglect to register transfers of land	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Non-report of cases of unnatural death	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Obstructing police	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Quarrying without licence	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Selling bad meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Selling bad milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Theft...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Trespass	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	426

MAGISTRATE'S COURT (ISLAND OF LIUKUNG).

	Offences.					Convictions.	
Attempted suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Breach of sampan regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Breach of sanitary regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Breach of junk regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Committing a nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Creating disturbance	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cruelty to animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Carried forward	...	...	...	...	...	...	77

MAGISTRATE'S COURT (ISLAND OF LIUKUNG)—*cont.*

Offences.							Convictions.
Brought forward	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Drunk and disorderly	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gambling	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Keeping disorderly house	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Neglect of duty	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Receiving stolen property	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Theft...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Trespass	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Total...	...	...	...	...	...	...	171

(Signed) R. WALTER,
Magistrate.

MAGISTRATE'S COURT, WENCH'UAN-T'ANG.

Offences.							Convictions.
Breach of opium and spirit regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Conspiracy	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Gambling	...	...	...	...	...	...	152
Indecent conduct	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Assault	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Robbery under arms	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Robbery	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Larceny	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Obstructing police	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bringing false accusations	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Evasion of cattle inspection fees	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Contempt of court	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bribery and corruption	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Obtaining money or property by false pretences	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Evasion of taxes, licence and registration fees	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Usurpation of land	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Failing to report cases of unnatural death	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Disorderly conduct	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Embezzlement	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sale of infected meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Impersonation of police	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	310

(Signed) R. F. JOHNSTON,
Magistrate.

APPENDIX II.

CIVIL HOSPITAL (ISLAND).

STATISTICS FOR 1907.

Name.	Out-patients.	In-patients.	Totals.	Remarks.
I. - GENERAL DISEASES.				
Small-pox ...	—	—	—	1 case in 1904, 1 in 1905.
Measles ...	—	—	—	31 cases in 1904, 7 in 1905, 1 in 1906.
Enteric fever ...	—	—	—	Except an odd case imported, has not arisen on island.
Febricula ...	17	2	19	
Malarial fever ...	3	—	3	Imported, no anopheles have been yet discovered.
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	
Whooping cough ...	1	—	1	
Mumps ...	4	—	4	13 cases in 1904, 20 in 1905, 5 in 1906.
Rheumatism ...	120	2	122	Muscular and chronic, is increasing since the cultivation of the island has been permitted.
Syphilis ...	10	1	11	
Leprosy ...	—	1	1	From territory where it occurs occasionally.
Cancer ...	2	—	2	
Erysipelas...	—	1	1	
Tumours ...	—	1	1	Sebaceous.
Anæmia ...	16	—	16	
Opium habit ...	2	—	2	
II.—LOCAL DISEASES.				
Nervous System ...	11	—	11	Mainly functional, 1 paralysis and 1 epilepsy.
Eye ...	254	2	256	Mainly acute conjunctivitis.
Ear ...	46	—	46	
Nose ...	6	—	6	
Circulatory System	9	—	9	
Absorbent "	6	—	6	
Respiratory "	270	—	270	17 asthma, 129 acute bronchitis.
Carried forward	777	10	787	

CIVIL HOSPITAL (ISLAND)—*cont.**Statistics for 1907—cont.*

Name.	Out-patients.	In-patients.	Totals.	Remarks.
Brought forward	777	10	787	
Digestive System...	288	1	289	Diarrhoea 71, dysentery 3, jaundice 2 cases, hepatitis 1 case.
Teeth	91	—	91	Chiefly caries.
Generative System	36	4	40	
Cutaneous "	780	6	786	Boils 78, abscess 86, eczema 106.
Osseous "	1	1	2	
Parasites	350	1	351	Lumbrici 17, tape worm 1, scabies 157, pediculi 23.
Poisons	3	—	3	Arsenic 1, opium 1, matches 1.
Injuries	125	8	133	Cuts 82, burns 42.
Total... ..	2,451	31	2,482	
III. OPERATIONS.	69	4	73	All minor.
IV. VACCINATIONS.	128	—	128	230 last year.

(Signed) H. J. HICKIN,
M.B. & C.M. (Glasgow) L.M. (Dublin).
Medical Officer.

CIVIL HOSPITAL, PORT EDWARD.

STATISTICS FOR 1907.

Name.	Out-patients.	In-patients.	Remarks.
I.—GENERAL DISEASES.			
Rheumatism	47	—	
Anæmia	7	—	
Parasites	248	—	Intestinal worms.
Syphilis	56	7	
Febricula	25	1	
Carried forward ...	383	8	

CIVIL HOSPITAL, PORT EDWARD—*cont.**Statistics for 1907—cont.*

Name.	Out-patients.	In-patients.	Remarks.
Brought forward ...	383	8	
Malaria	33	—	Epithelioma.
Cancer	—	3	
Tubercle	21	7	
Erysipelas	67	2	
Dysentery	5	1	
Leprosy	—	3	
Beri-beri	3	1	
Hernia	—	1	Frost bite.
Gangrene	—	3	1 web fingers, 1 imperforate anus, 1 supernumerary toes, all relieved by operation.
Deformities	—	—	
LOCAL DISEASES.			
Nervous System	40	4	Insanity, hysteria, headache, &c.
Circulatory System	30	2	
Respiratory "	104	2	2 empyema, bronchitis, &c.
Digestive "	253	4	
Lymphatic "	7	2	
Generative "	59	4	
Cutaneous "	478	3	
Osseous "	18	9	
Urinary "	11	1	Stricture of urethra, &c.
Eye	189	10	2 sarcoma of eye ball.
Ear	76	—	
Throat	25	—	
Nose	1	—	
Liver	5	1	1 liver abscess.
Teeth	65	—	
Connective tissue	319	9	Ulcers, abscesses, &c.
Tumours	5	1	
Anal fistula	4	4	Relieved by operation.
Injuries	120	17	
Poison	11	1	4 opium, 5 matches, 1 arsenic, 1 kerosene oil.
Totals	2,302	105	
III.—PARTURITION ...	4	—	1 miscarriage, 3 instrumental.
IV.—OPERATIONS ...	—	15	3 amputations, 2 excision of eyeball, 1 abscess of liver.
V.—VACCINATIONS ...	3,737	—	

There was one death in hospital, a man admitted suffering from arsenical poisoning dying two hours after admission.

(Signed) W. M. MUAT, M.B.,
Medical Officer.

